

CHAPTER NO. 981

SENATE BILL NO. 3107

By Herron, Person, Ford, Cohen, Kyle, Harper

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3035

By Chumney, Walley, Lois DeBerry, Harwell, Langster, Arriola, Hargett, Todd, Caldwell, Kisber, Lewis, Rinks, Ronnie Cole, Fitzhugh, Maddox, Walker, Armstrong, Ronnie Davis, Pleasant, Scroggs, Bittle, Kent, Ralph Cole, Pinion, Buck, Whitson, Towns, Ulysses Jones, Stulce,
John DeBerry, Godsey, White, Garrett, McMillan, Hargrove, Cooper, Ridgeway, Dunn,
Mr. Speaker Naifeh

AN ACT To amend Titles 4, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 49, 68 and 71 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, relative to the care for and protection of certain persons.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, is amended by deleting Part 5 in it entirety, and by substituting instead Sections 2 through 13 as a new Part 5.

SECTION 2.

71-3-501. Definitions.

(a) As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires: "child care agency" includes "child care center", "family child care home", and "group child care home", as defined in subsection (b).

(b) As used in this part, unless otherwise excluded pursuant to § 71-3-503, and unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Care giver(s)", or "care provider(s)", means the person(s) or entity(ies) directly responsible for providing for the supervision, protection and basic needs of the child;

(2) "Child or children" means a person or persons under the age of eighteen (18);

(3) "Child care" means, for purposes of this part, the provision of supervision, protection and, at a minimum, the basic needs of at least five (5) children, who are not related to the primary care givers, for three (3) or more hours a day, but less than twenty-four (24) hours a day. Care for a child of twenty-four (24) hours duration is "residential child care", which is provided by the Department of Children's Services pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5.

(4) "Child care agency" or "agency" means, for purposes of this part, and only where the context requires, the person or entity that provides child care, regardless of whether such person or entity is licensed.

(5) "Child care center" means any place or facility operated by any person or entity that provides child care for thirteen (13) or more children. All children present in the center, including those related to the primary caregiver, are counted in determining if the place or facility must be licensed as a child care center. If the child care center is operated in the occupied residence of the primary caregiver, children in the home who are thirteen (13) years of age or older and who are related to the primary caregiver are not counted in determining the total number of children permitted in this class of child care agency, provided that the related children have their own space separate from the space occupied by the licensed child care center.

(6) "Commissioner" means the chief administrative officer in charge of the Department of Human Services.

(7) "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

(8) "Drop-in center" means a place or facility that provides casual care for children who are not regularly enrolled at the facility and the facility is not exempt from regulation under Section 71-3-503(a)(10). Such place or facility shall be operated in connection with a business establishment, recreational facility, or similar activity, where children are cared for during short periods of time, not to exceed ten (10) hours per week and for not more than six (6) hours each day for any individual child, while the parents or other custodians of the children are engaged in short-term activities, such as shopping, or recreation, but not including employment.

(9) "Family child care home" means any place or facility operated by any person or entity that provides child care for at least five (5) children, but not more than seven (7) children. Children in the home who are thirteen (13) years of age or older and who are related to the primary caregiver are not counted in determining the total number of children permitted in this class of child care agency, provided that the related children have their own space separate from the space occupied by the licensed family child care home. To be licensed as a family child care home, the place or facility must be in the occupied residence, as defined by the department, of the license applicant.

(10) "Group child care home" means any place or facility operated by any person or entity that provides child care for at least eight (8) children, but not more than twelve (12) children; provided, however, that up to three (3) additional school age children may be received for care before and after school on school holidays, on school snow days and during summer vacation. If the group child care home is operated in the occupied residence, as defined by the department, of the primary caregiver, children in the home who are thirteen (13) years of age or older and who are related to the primary caregiver are not counted in determining the total number of children permitted in this class of child care agency, provided that the related children have their own space separate from the space occupied by the licensed group care home.

(11) "Related" means for purposes of "child care": the children, step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, siblings of the whole or half-blood, step-siblings, nieces, nephews or foster children of the primary care giver.

SECTION 3.

71-3-502. Basis for licensing; regulations; license application; temporary license; non-transferability of license; transfer of operation to circumvent licensing laws or regulations; fees.

(a)(1) All persons or entities operating a child care center, a family child care home, drop-in center, or group child care home as defined in §71-3-501, must be licensed by the Department of Human Services as provided by this part.

(2)(A) The department shall have authority to issue regulations pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2, for the licensing of any persons or entities subject to any provisions of this part and for enforcement of appropriate standards for the health, safety and welfare of children in their care.

(B) To the extent they are not inconsistent with the statutory provisions of this part, the regulations of the Department of Human Services which are in effect upon the effective date of this act shall remain in force and effect until modified by regulatory action of the department.

(3) The department's regulations of child care agencies shall be developed, and the continued approval of the licensing status of a child care agency, shall be based upon the following criteria:

(A) The safety, welfare and best interests of the children in the care of the agency;

(B) The capability, training and character of the persons providing or supervising the care to the children;

(C) The quality of the methods of care and instruction provided for the children;

(D) The suitability of the facilities provided for the care of the children; and

(E) The adequacy of the methods of administration and the management of the child care agency, the agency's personnel policies, and the financing of the agency.

(4) The department shall promulgate regulations that address the following areas:

(A) Training for directors and caregivers as follows:

(i) Pre-employment training for directors, including but not limited to training in interviewing and evaluating caregivers for service in an agency; and

(ii) Training for caregivers that includes but is not limited to two (2) hours of preservice orientation and six (6) hours within the first six (6) months of employment, of the training required in the proposed rules from the most recent Standards Committee appointed pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, and specifically provided in the committee's proposed Rules 1240-4-3-.07.

(B) Liability and accident insurance coverage, including minimum amounts of coverage based upon insurance industry standards, for both facilities and vehicles owned, leased or contracted for by the child care agency; provided, that this requirement shall not apply to a child care agency that is under the direct management of a self-insured administrative department of the state, a county, a municipality or any combination of those three (3).

The department shall enact these regulations by public necessity rule to be effective July 1, 2000; provided, permanent rules shall be promulgated pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5.

(b)(1)The department shall assist applicants or licensees in meeting the child care standards of the department unless the circumstances demonstrate that further assistance is not compatible with the continued safety, health or welfare of the children in the agency's care and that regulatory action affecting the agency's license is warranted. All costs and expenses arising from or related to meeting the child care standards of the department shall be borne entirely by the applicant or licensee; provided, however, the department may, in its discretion, provide from available funds for technical assistance to child care agencies, and the training of, child care givers.

(2) If a licensee is denied the renewal of a license, or if a license is revoked, or if any applicant for a license cannot meet the standards, then the department shall offer reasonable assistance to the parent, guardian or custodian of the child in planning for the placement of such children in licensed child care agencies or other suitable care.

(c) Application for a license to operate a child care agency shall be made in writing to the department in such manner as the department determines and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in the fee schedule in subsection (g).

(d)(1)(A) If the department determines that the applicant for a license, which is not the renewal of an existing license, has presented satisfactory evidence that the facility which is proposed for the care of children has received fire safety and environmental safety approval, that the applicant and the personnel who will care for the children are capable in all substantial respects to care for the children and that the applicant has the ability and intent to comply with the licensing law and regulations, and the

department has determined after appropriate inspection that the site is suitable for child care activities and does not endanger the welfare or safety of children, the department shall issue a temporary license to the applicant.

(B) If the department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted license which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.

(2) The purpose of the temporary license is to permit the license applicant to demonstrate to the department that it has complied with all licensing laws and regulations applicable to its classification prior to the issuance of an initial annual license.

(3) Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the issuance of the temporary license, the department shall determine if the applicant has complied with all regulations governing the classification of child care agency for which the application was made.

(4)(A) If the department determines that the applicant for any license has complied with all licensing regulations for the classification of child care agency for which application was made, the department shall issue an annual license.

(B) If the department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted license which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.

(5) The licensee shall post the license in a clearly visible location as determined by the department so that parents or other persons visiting the agency can readily view the license and all the information on the license.

(6)(A)(i) The license shall describe the ownership of the child care agency, the person who is charged with the day-to-day management of the child care agency, and, if the agency is owned by a person other than the director, or if the agency is under the ownership or direction or control of any person or entity who is not also the on-site director or manager of the agency, the license shall also state the corporate or other name of the controlling person or entity, its address and telephone number where the parents, guardians or custodians may have contact regarding the agency's operations.

(ii) If the child care agency is operated by a public or private non-profit entity and is subject to the control or direction of a board of directors or other oversight authority, the license shall list the name, address and telephone number of the chairman of the board or other executive head of such controlling body.

(B) In order for a child care agency to offer before or after school services under this part the department must issue a license bearing a notation that the agency is authorized to provide before or after school care services. An agency may not offer such services unless its license bears such notation.

(7) In granting any license, the department may limit the total number of children who may be enrolled in the agency regardless of the agency's physical capacity or the size of its staff.

(8) If the department fails to issue or deny an annual license within one hundred twenty (120) days of the granting of the temporary license, the temporary license shall continue in effect, unless suspended, as provided in §71-3-509, until such determination is made. If an annual license is denied following the issuance of a temporary license, and if a timely appeal is made of the denial of the annual license, the temporary license shall remain in effect, unless suspended, until the board of review renders a decision regarding the denial of the annual license.

(9) If a temporary or annual license is denied, or an annual license is restricted, the applicant may appeal the denial or restriction as provided in § 71-3-509.

(e)(1) Except as provided herein, no license for a child care agency shall be transferable, and the transfer by sale or lease, or in any other manner, of the operation of the agency to any other person or entity shall void the existing license immediately and any pending appeal involving the status of the license, and the agency shall be required to close immediately. If the transferee has made application for, and is granted, a temporary license, the agency may continue operation under the direction of the new licensee. The new licensee in such circumstances may not be the transferor or any person or entity acting on behalf of the transferor.

(2) If the department determines that any person or entity has transferred nominal control of an agency to any persons or entities who are determined by the department to be acting on behalf of the purported transferor in order to circumvent a history of violations of the licensing law or regulations or to otherwise attempt to circumvent the licensing law or regulations or any prior licensing actions instituted by the department, the department may deny the issuance of any license to the applicant. The denial of the license may be appealed as provided in § 71-3-509.

(3)(A) The license of any agency shall not be voided nor shall any pending appeal be voided pursuant to this subsection solely for the reason that the agency is subject to judicial orders directing the transfer of control or management of a child care agency or its license to any receiver, trustee, administrator or executor of an estate, or any similarly situated person or entity.

(B) If the current licensee dies, and provided that no licensing violations require the suspension, denial or revocation of the agency's license, the department may grant family members of the licensee, or administrators or executors of the licensee, a new temporary license to continue operation for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days. At the end of such period, the department shall determine whether an annual or extended license should be granted to a new licensee as otherwise provided in this section.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the department from taking any regulatory or judicial action as may be required pursuant to the licensing laws and regulations that may be necessary to protect the children in the care of such agency.

(f)(1) Following the expiration of a least one (1) annual license, the department may issue an extended license to a licensee who seeks renewal of an existing license if the department determines that the licensee has demonstrated that its methods of child care and its adherence to licensing laws and regulations are clearly appropriate to justify an extended licensing period. An extended license may not be granted as the first license immediately following any temporary license.

(2) The department may by rule establish any criteria for the issuance of an extended license; provided, however, no extended license shall exceed three (3) years duration.

(3) At the time renewal of the license is sought, or at any other time during the licensing period, the department may reduce the period of the extended license to a shorter period if it determines that the licensee has failed to demonstrate continued adherence to the requirements for the issuance of the extended license. The licensee may appeal such action as provided in § 71-3-509.

(4) The issuance of an extended license shall not be construed in any manner to prevent the department from suspending or revoking the license, or placing an agency on probation, or imposing a civil penalty, if it determines that such action is appropriate.

(g) Prior to January 1, 2001, the licensing fees as they existed for child care agencies on June 30, 2000 shall apply. On and after January 1, 2001, the following licensing fees shall apply to applications for licenses for child care agencies licensed pursuant to this part:

(1) Family child care homes	Annual fee	\$100.00
	Biennial fee	\$150.00
	Triennial fee	\$175.00
(2) Group child care homes	Annual fee	\$125.00
	Biennial fee	\$175.00
	Triennial fee	\$200.00

(3) Child care centers (Less than 100 children)	Annual fee	\$200.00
	Biennial fee	\$250.00
	Triennial fee	\$300.00
(4) Child care centers (100-250 children)	Annual fee	\$400.00
	Biennial fee	\$450.00
	Triennial fee	\$500.00
(5) Child care centers (More than 250 children)	Annual fee	\$500.00
	Biennial fee	\$550.00
	Triennial fee	\$600.00
(6) Drop-in centers	Annual fee	\$200.00
	Biennial fee	\$250.00
	Triennial fee	\$300.00

(h) All licensure application and renewal fees collected by the department from family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers shall be paid into the general fund, but shall be earmarked for and dedicated to the Department of Human Services. Such earmarked fees shall be used by the department exclusively to improve child care quality in this state by funding activities which include child care provider training activities, but excluding any costs associated with conducting criminal background checks. Increased fees for child care agency licenses shall be implemented on January 1, 2001. Increased fees shall be used solely for a variety of training options, which can be accessed by agencies, organizations and individuals for grants for workshops, conferences and scholarships that improve the quality of child care in this state.

(i) Notwithstanding any provisions of Title 13, Chapter 7, to the contrary, upon adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body, any zoning authority, in determining the suitability of a request for any use of property for the establishment or alteration of any child care agency, may consider the criminal background of the person or persons making a request to such board or may consider the criminal background of any person or persons who will manage or operate such child care agency. The board may require the person to submit a fingerprint sample and a criminal history disclosure form and may submit the fingerprint sample for comparison by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation pursuant to § 38-6-109, or it may conduct the background check by other means as it deems appropriate. The zoning authority shall be responsible for all costs associated with obtaining such criminal background information.

(j)(1) The department shall, no later than January 1, 2001, in consultation with the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, establish and implement a system for evaluating, individually and collectively, all child care agencies licensed by the department under Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5. Such evaluation system shall include development of an annual report card or graduated licensing system, a summary of which shall be posted at each child care agency, which shall reflect key indicators of performance comparison among all Tennessee child care agencies. Key indicators shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) health and safety;

(B) training, education, certification, and credentials of all supervisory staff, including the director or licensee;

(C) staffing ratios;

(D) child development and enrichment;

(E) accreditation status; and

(F) adequacy of physical facilities.

It is the legislative intent that such report card or system be developed in a manner to be easily usable by a parent or guardian to make choices related to childcare. Organizations offering accreditation or certification for early childhood education programs may submit accreditation or certification components to the department, or as may be applicable under rules of the Department of Education pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(k), for review for recognition of the accreditation, certification or licensure process under this subsection. No accreditation or certification process under this subsection shall be denied based solely on religious affiliation or ethnicity of the organization granting accreditation or certification.

(2)(A) The Department and the Comptroller of the Treasury shall develop guidelines and benchmarks for financial evaluation of child care agencies licensed pursuant to this part receiving seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) or more annually in subsidy payments for child care to ensure accountability so that state and federal subsidies are effectively used to provide quality in child care. Such guidelines and benchmarks shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(i) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for administrative salaries and benefits, including the salaries of officers, directors and highly compensated individuals;

(ii) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for overhead and/or indirect expenses;

(iii) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for salaries and benefits for persons primarily engaged in direct care activities;

(iv) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for the direct provision of food services and meals, identifying the share of such expenses used for purchase of foodstuffs;

(v) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for training and professional development of direct care givers;

(vi) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for utilities, rent, mortgage payments, maintenance and upkeep of the facility and related physical assets; and

(vii) the total funds expended and the share of total expenses used for contracted professional or consulting services.

The benchmarks and guidelines shall be established no later than October 1, 2000.

(B)(i) Annually, beginning January 1, 2001, each child care agency licensed pursuant to this part receiving seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) or more annually in subsidy payments for child care shall submit to the department, in such form and containing such information as directed by the department, a report on the agency's financial status including, but not limited to, the receipt and disposition of any funds paid to the agency by the department for the care of children. Such report shall include all information deemed relevant by the commissioner and the Comptroller of the Treasury necessary to compare the agency's operations to applicable benchmarks and guidelines.

(ii) Annually, beginning January 1, 2001, each child care agency licensed pursuant to this part receiving at least two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) but less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) annually in subsidy payments for child care shall be subject to a program of random audits. The Comptroller of the Treasury and the commissioner shall determine an annual minimum number of random audits of agencies subject to the provisions of this section. The annual report, including financial statements, if any, and all books of account and financial records are subject to audit by the Comptroller of the Treasury.

(iii) Annually, beginning, January 1, 2001, each child care agency licensed pursuant to this part receiving five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or more annually in subsidy payments for child care shall be audited by the Comptroller of the Treasury.

(iv) The audit contract between the child care agency and the independent public accountant shall be on contract forms prescribed by the Comptroller of the Treasury.

(v) The child care agency is responsible for reimbursement of the reasonable costs of audits prepared by the Comptroller of the Treasury and the payment of fees for audits prepared by licensed independent public accountants.

(vi) Audits and working papers prepared by independent public accountants shall be reviewed and approved by the Comptroller of the Treasury prior to payment.

(vii) Copies of such audits shall be provided to the Commissioner of Human Services, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Comptroller of the Treasury and on payment of reasonable costs for reproduction shall be made available to the press.

(C) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any child care agency receiving any subsidy funds may be required to have an audit at any time at the discretion of the commissioner or the Comptroller of the Treasury. Only those entities subject to the provisions of item (B)(ii) or item (B)(iii) shall pay for costs of such audit. A child care agency subject to audit under item (B)(ii) or item (B)(iii) of this subdivision may, with the prior approval of the Comptroller of the Treasury, engage licensed independent public accountants to perform the audits.

(D) Any such audits performed under this act shall be designed to determine whether state and federal subsidy payments are efficiently spent for purposes directly related to provision of quality child care.

(3) Any child care agency that knowingly provides false information required by this subsection to a state agency shall be subject to revocation or suspension of its license under Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, in addition to any other remedies or sanctions provided by law.

(4) In addition to other provisions of this chapter and subject to the availability of funds, the department, or agents acting on its behalf, shall periodically visit child care facilities that receive subsidy payments for the purpose of assessing and verifying attendance of children for whom subsidies are provided. Such visits shall also include a limited review of attendance and other records as may be necessary to determine that the child care facility is operating in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations of the department and any other conditions under which the center is entitled to subsidy payments. The department may perform the visits and reviews required by this subsection using licensing counselors or other department employees, through contracts for monitoring with the Department of Finance and Administration or by such other means that the commissioner shall determine.

SECTION 4.

71-3-503. Program and facilities exempt from licensing.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the provisions of this part requiring licensing of child care agencies do not apply to:

(1) All child care of less than three (3) hours duration daily;

(2) Entities or persons licensed or otherwise regulated by other agencies of the state or federal governments providing health, psychiatric or psychological care or treatment or mental health care or counseling for children while the entity or person is engaged in such licensed or regulated activity;

(3) Pre-school or school age child care programs, a Title I program, a school-administered Head Start or an Even Start program, and all state-approved Montessori school programs, that are subject to regulation by the Department of Education or other departments of state government;

(4) Private or parochial kindergartens for five (5) year old children if such kindergartens operate on the public school kindergarten schedule;

(5) Child care centers operated by church-related schools, as defined by § 49-50-801, which shall be subject to regulation by the Department of Education pursuant to Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 10;

(6) Schools and educational programs and facilities the primary purpose of which is to provide a regular course of study necessary for advancement to a higher educational level or completion of a prescribed course of study;

(7) "Parents' Day Out" or similar programs carried on by churches or church organizations which provide custodial care and services for children of less than school age for not more than two (2) days in each calendar week for not more than six (6) hours each day;

(8) Recreational programs or facilities, the primary purpose of which is physical education or physical or craft activities including, but not limited to, county or municipal recreation centers and summer programs associated with them or which are operated or sponsored by public school systems, health clubs, swimming pools, bowling alleys or skating facilities;

(9) Public or private summer day camps or overnight camps such as, but not limited to, those operated by the Boy or Girl Scouts, the YMCA or YWCA, by church or religious organizations or by organizations representing disabled children which operate less than ninety (90) days per year, and other similar businesses or programs as determined by the department;

(10) Facilities, except as provided in subsection (b), operated in connection with a church, business establishment, recreational facility, or similar activity, where children are cared for during short periods of time, not to exceed ten (10) hours per week for any individual child and for not more than six (6) hours each day for any individual child, while the parents or other custodians of the children are engaged in short-term activities, such as shopping, or recreation, but not including employment. Such facilities shall care for no more than fifteen (15) children at any one time and shall register with the department regarding their intent to operate. As evidence of their exempt status, such facilities shall maintain records which include children's names, dates, and times in attendance, parents' names and whereabouts, and telephone numbers of persons to contact in the event of an emergency. Failure to comply with the requirements of this subdivision including registration and record keeping shall subject the violator to

civil penalties under Section 71-3-509(c) and to injunctive sanction under Section 71-3-504.

(11)(A) Any program or facility operated by, or in affiliation with, any Boys and Girls Club which provides care for school-aged children and which holds membership in good standing with Boys and Girls Clubs of America and which is certified as being in compliance with the purposes, procedures, voluntary standards and mandatory requirements of Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

(B) Any such Boys and Girls Club, which applies to participate in state or federally funded programs which require child care licensing by the state as a term of eligibility, may elect to apply to the department for child care licensing and regulation. Upon meeting departmental standards, the Boys and Girls Club may be licensed as a child care center/provider.

(C) The department is hereby authorized to grant a waiver from any rule concerning grouping of children and adult/child ratios for child care centers to any Boys and Girls Club which falls within the provisions of both subdivisions (11)(A) and (B) and which is providing after-school child care to mixed groups of school-aged children.

(12) Nurseries, babysitting services and other children's activities that are not ordinarily operated on a daily basis, but which are associated with religious services or related activities of churches or other houses of worship. Such services or activities may include limited special events that shall not exceed fourteen (14) days in any calendar year.

(b)(1) Exempt programs under subdivisions (a)(4), (a)(7) and (a)(10) shall post a sign stating, "This facility is not required to be licensed by the State of Tennessee as a child-caring agency."

(2) When a parent, custodian or guardian initially registers a child with exempt programs under subdivisions (a)(4), (a)(7) and (a)(10) which are required to post a sign pursuant to this subsection, the parent, custodian or guardian shall sign a form indicating that the parent, custodian or guardian has been advised and understands that the program is not licensed and is not required to be licensed by the State of Tennessee as a child-caring agency. The same language which is required to be placed on the sign shall be printed on such form at least in 16-point type with a signature line for the parent, custodian or guardian immediately following such language. The signed form shall be maintained with the records of the exempt entity.

SECTION 5.

71-3-504. Injunctions against unlicensed operations.

(a) The department may, in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee governing injunctions, maintain an action in the name of the State of Tennessee to enjoin any person, partnership, association, corporation or other entity from establishing,

conducting, managing or operating any place or facility providing services to children without having a license as required by law, or from continuing to operate any such place or facility following suspension of a license or following the effective date of the denial or revocation of a license.

(b) In charging any defendant in a complaint for such injunction, it shall be sufficient to charge that such defendant did, upon a certain day and in a certain county, establish, conduct, manage or operate a place, home or facility of any kind which is a child care agency as defined in this part or to charge that the defendant is about to do so without having in effect a license as required by law, or that the defendant continues to operate any such place or facility following suspension of a license, or following the effective date of the denial or revocation of a license, without averring any further or more particular facts concerning the case. Refusal to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.

SECTION 6.

71-3-505. Criminal violations.

(a) Any person or entity operating a child care agency, as defined in § 71-3-501, without being licensed by the department or who continues to operate such agency while a suspension of the license is in effect, or who operates a child care agency following the effective date of a denial or revocation of a license, commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) Each day of operation without an effective license constitutes a separate offense.

(c)(1) It is unlawful for any person who is an operator, licensee or employee of a child care agency to make any statement, whether written or verbal, knowing such statement is false, including, but not limited to statements regarding:

(A) the number of children in the child care agency;

(B) the area of the child care agency used for child care; or

(C) the credentials, licensure or qualification of any care giver, employee, substitute or volunteer of the child care agency, when such statement is made to a parent or guardian of a child in the care of such agency, to any state or local official having jurisdiction over such agencies, or to any law enforcement officer.

(2) In order for subdivision (1) to apply, the falsity of the statement must place at risk the health or safety of a child in the care of the child care agency.

(3) A violation of subdivision (1) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) This subsection includes statements made in any child care agency license application that misrepresents or conceals a material fact that would have resulted in the license being denied.

(5) In addition to any punishment authorized under this subsection, the department may also take any licensure action authorized under this part.

SECTION 7.

71-3-506. Public agencies-Inspection and report.

(a) Any child care agency, as defined in § 71-3-501, which is under the direct management of an administrative department of the state, a county, or a municipality, or any combination of these three (3), shall not be subject to license, but shall meet the minimum standards for programs and care as required of such child care agencies.

(b)(1) The commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized representative, shall make periodic inspections of such publicly administered child care agencies.

(2) The report of such inspections and recommendations shall be made in writing to the executive head of the publicly administered child care agency, the board of directors, if any, and/or the division of the state, county or municipal government which has the duty under the law to operate such agency.

(c) It is the duty of the department to cooperate with the publicly administered agencies herein referred to, to implement recommended changes in program and policies.

(d) If, within a reasonable time, such standards and recommendations are not met, it shall be the duty of the commissioner to make public in the community in which this agency is located, the report of the above-mentioned inspection.

(e)(1) If violations of the standards for child care agencies are found and are not corrected within a reasonable time, or, if serious violations are found which meet the requirements which would justify the suspension of a child care agency's license pursuant to § 4-5-320, the department may file a complaint in the chancery court of the county in which the child care agency is located.

(2) The chancery court shall have jurisdiction to hear the complaint and to enter any orders or injunctive relief necessary to ensure the correction of such violations or to suspend the operations of the facility for the protection of the children who are in the care of the child care agency.

SECTION 8.

71-3-507. Criminal history violation information required of persons having access to children; Review of vulnerable persons registry; Verification; Exclusion from access to children.

(a)(1) Each person:

(A) applying to work with children as a paid employee, director, or manager with a child care agency as defined in § 71-3-501, or with the department in any position in which any significant contact with children is

likely in the course of the person's employment; or who applies for a license for, or who otherwise seeks to operate (operator), as defined by the rules of the department, a child care agency as defined in § 71-3-501 and who has significant contact with children in the course of such role and is not otherwise exempted from the application of this section by rules of the department; or

(B) who is a new substitute staff person, paid or unpaid, and who is to be used by the child care agency to meet child care standards and who serves as a substitute for more than thirty-six (36) hours in any one (1) calendar year; or

(C) aged fifteen (15) years and above who resides in a child care agency which is being licensed initially or who moves into a child care agency following initial licensure,

shall complete a criminal history disclosure form in a manner approved by the department, and shall agree to release all records involving the person relating criminal history of such person to the child care agency and to the department for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of criminal violation information contained on the disclosure form required by this section.

(2)(A) Such persons shall also supply a fingerprint sample in a manner prescribed by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and shall submit to a fingerprint based criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and shall submit to a review of such person's status on the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry under Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10.

(B) The entity that is seeking to employ the person, or that is seeking to use the person as substitute staff, or which has a person residing in the agency, or the licensee or operator, shall be responsible for obtaining, and submitting the fingerprint sample and any information necessary to process the criminal history review, to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation within ten (10) days of the first day of beginning employment or substitute status, within ten (10) days of the license application or of seeking operator status, or, for residents of agencies, within ten (10) days of the application for an initial license for the facility in which the person resides or within ten (10) days after the resident moves into the child care agency.

(3) The disclosure forms shall include at a minimum the following information:

(A) The social security number of the applicant, substitute or resident;

(B) The complete name of the applicant, substitute or resident;

(C) Disclosure of information relative to any violations of the law, including pending criminal charges of any kind, and any conviction

involving a sentence or suspended or reduced sentence and a release by the person of all records involving the person's criminal background history; and

(D) A space for the person to state any circumstances which should be considered in determining whether to allow the person who has a criminal history to be employed or to provide substitute services or to remain as a resident in the agency.

(4) The form shall notify the person that falsification of required information may subject the person to criminal prosecution, and that the person's employment or substitute status with the agency or the department is conditional pending a criminal records history review regarding the person's criminal history status. The form shall also state, for the Department of Human Services, that if the person is a license applicant or licensee or operator or resident of the child care agency, that a finding of criminal history may affect the agency's ability to obtain a license or remain licensed or to renew a license if the person continues as licensee, operator, or if the person continues to have access to children in the agency.

(5) A copy of the disclosure form shall be maintained in the child care agency's records for review by the department, and the department shall maintain a copy of the disclosure form in the records of the applicant for a license or as operator, or for employment with the department.

(b)(1) The disclosure form, or information contained on the form, obtained pursuant to this section, together with the fingerprints of the person shall be submitted by the child care agency for its applicants, licensee, operators, substitutes or residents, and by the department for its applicants, to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in such format as required by the bureau.

(2)(A) The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall compare the information and the fingerprint sample received with the computer criminal history files maintained by the bureau and to the extent permitted by federal law, with federal criminal databases, to verify the accuracy of the criminal violation information, and shall conduct the fingerprint and criminal history background check for the person pursuant to § 38-6-109. It shall report the existence of any criminal history involving the person to the requesting child care agency which submitted the form and the fingerprint sample.

(B) If the history and sample were submitted by a licensed child care agency, or by a license applicant or operator, a copy of a report which has indicated the existence of a criminal history shall also be sent to the department.

(C) The bureau shall also report the existence of a criminal history of the applicant for employment to the department for persons whom the department has submitted.

(3) The results of the inquiry to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall be recorded in the records of the child care agency for the person for whom the background check is sought, and the department shall also maintain a record of the results of all license applicants or operators.

(4) If the information on the form appears to have been falsified, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall report such finding to the department. The department shall notify in writing the appropriate district attorney general of such falsification.

(5)(A) The department shall pay to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation the cost of processing the criminal history background fingerprint check requested by the agency or by the department as set forth in § 38-6-109. Payment of such costs is to be made in accordance with § 38-6-103 and § 38-6-109.

(B) The child care agency shall be responsible for all costs associated with the obtaining, handling and processing of the fingerprint sample which is submitted to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

(C) The department shall only be responsible for payment for one (1) processing fee that is required by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. If the fingerprint sample is rejected, and if any further costs are required to process the fingerprint, the child care agency is responsible for any further costs, regardless of the number of efforts required to obtain a valid fingerprint sample.

(c) The agency, and the department for its employees, shall also utilize the information on the criminal history disclosure form to conduct an inquiry of the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry pursuant to Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10 for a review of the person's status on such registry. The department shall conduct the review for license applicants and operators. The results of the inquiry to the registry shall be maintained in the person's records at the agency or with the department.

(d) Pending the outcome of the fingerprint background check and the review of the Department of Health's vulnerable person's registry, the applicant for employment, for a license or for operator status or for a substitute services position shall be conditional with the agency or with the department, and shall be dependent upon the outcome of the background check.

(e)(1)(A)(i) Whether obtained by use of the fingerprint-based criminal background review procedures established in this section or whether such information is obtained by any other means, conviction of an offense, or a lesser included offense, or a finding in a juvenile proceeding, involving the physical, sexual or emotional abuse or gross neglect of a child, or which constitutes conviction of an offense, or a finding in a juvenile proceeding, involving violence against a child, or any person, or conviction of an offense determined by the department, pursuant to properly promulgated rules, to present a threat to the health, safety or welfare of children, and any pending warrants, indictments or

presentments, or pending juvenile proceedings, for such offenses or acts as a juvenile, as determined by the department's rules, or the identification of the individual on the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry pursuant to Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10, shall disqualify the individual from employment with, as a licensee or operator of a child care agency, or from providing any substitute services to children in, or from having any access whatsoever to children in a child care agency as defined by this part, or with the department.

(ii) No person who is currently charged with or who has been convicted of or pled guilty to a violation of § 39-13-213, § 55-10-101, § 55-10-102 or § 55-10-401, or any felony involving use of a motor vehicle while under the influence of any intoxicant, may, for a period of five (5) years after the date of such conviction or felony plea, be employed as or serve as a driver transporting children for a child care agency.

(B)(i) Upon receipt of the report from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the child care agency shall immediately review the report to determine if the person for whom the criminal background check was requested is within the prohibited categories under subdivision (A), and, if necessary, shall immediately consult with the department to further determine if the individual is within the prohibited categories in subdivision (A).

(ii) The child care agency, and the department for its employees, shall immediately exclude an individual from employment, substitute services or, if a resident, shall exclude the resident from access to children in the child care agency, if the results of the criminal background check or review of the vulnerable person's registry demonstrate to the agency, or upon further review by the department demonstrate, that the criminal history of such individual is within the prohibited categories established in subdivision (A), and the department shall deny the license or operator status of any such individual. If an exemption from the exclusion is provided for by rule of the department pursuant to subsection (f), such person shall remain excluded or that person's license or operator status shall be denied until it is determined by the department whether there is a basis for an exception from the exclusion.

(iii) The failure of a child care agency to exclude a person with a prohibited criminal history at a child care agency from employment with the agency, or from the provision of substitute services to children in the agency, or the failure, as determined by the department, to adequately restrict the access of a resident or other person in a child care agency to children being cared for by the agency, shall subject the child care agency to immediate suspension of the agency's license or approval by the department.

(2) Any person who is excluded or whose license or operator status is denied based upon the results of the criminal history background review may appeal the exclusion or denial to the department within ten (10) days of the mailing date of the notice of such exclusion or denial to the subject person.

(3) If timely appealed, the department shall provide an administrative hearing pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3, in which the appellant may challenge the accuracy of the report, and may challenge the failure to grant an exception to the exclusion or denial required by this subsection if a rule for such purpose has been promulgated by the department pursuant to subsection (f).

(4) The appellant may not collaterally attack the factual basis of an underlying conviction except to show that the appellant is not the person identified on the record. Further, except to show that the appellant is not the person identified on the record, the appellant may not collaterally attack or litigate the facts which are the basis of a reported pending criminal or juvenile charge except to show that such charge was, or since the report was generated, has been dismissed, nolle or has resulted in an acquittal.

(f)(1) The department under this part may by rule provide for a review process which utilizes an advisory group of law enforcement personnel, persons experienced in child protective services, persons experienced in child development issues and child care providers to consider exemptions from the criminal background or juvenile background or the vulnerable persons registry review exclusion established by this section. State agencies utilizing the methods for background checks pursuant to subsections (g) and (h) may, by rule, establish methods for granting exemptions from the exclusions based on criminal history of the person.

(2) Any exemption granted must be based upon extenuating circumstances which would clearly warrant consideration of such exemption and such determination shall be made in writing in the record of the department and of the child care agency and shall be open to public inspection.

(3) If an exemption rule is promulgated by the department under this part, or by any state agencies utilizing the methods authorized by subsections (g) or (h), the person who is not granted an exemption from the exclusion upon review of the person's criminal history may have this issue considered in an administrative appeal as provided by subsection (e).

(g)(1)(A)(i) a "child care agency", as defined in § 71-3-501 or § 37-5-501 or a "child care program", as defined in § 49-1-1002;

(ii) the Department of Children's Services;

(iii) the Department of Education;

(iv) the Department of Human Services;

(v) the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and

(vi) any other state agency or any person or entity that contracts with the State of Tennessee,

may require all persons:

(B)(i) applying to work or substitute, or currently working, in any capacity as a paid employee, licensee or operator, or substitute, or volunteering, with children with the entities in subdivision (A);

(ii) an applicant for a foster parent position or an applicant to be an adoptive parent, or a current foster parent or a current prospective adoptive parent with the Department of Children's Services; or

(iii) a person fifteen (15) years of age or older who resides in a child care agency licensed pursuant to this part or Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5,

and who are not otherwise required by the provisions of subsection (a)(1) of this section, or who are not otherwise required by any other provision of law to undergo a criminal background check of any kind, to complete a criminal history disclosure form and agree to release all records involving the person relating to the criminal history of such person to the entities described in subdivision (1)(A) and, if further required by the requesting entity, to supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and to submit to a review of the person's status on the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry under Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10;

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to mean that any other law which mandates that criminal background checks be conducted on applicants for employment, licensee or operator status, substitute or for volunteer service positions or for resident status is made voluntary, repealed or superseded in any manner by the provisions of this subsection, and the provisions of this section are supplementary to, and are not in lieu of any mandatory provisions for such other statutorily required criminal background checks.

(2) The disclosure form shall contain the information described in subsections (a)(3) and (a)(4).

(3) A copy of the disclosure form shall be maintained in the requesting entity's records of the persons for whom the background check is sought.

(4)(A) The form obtained pursuant to this section, together with the fingerprints of the person, shall be submitted by the entity authorized by this subsection to do so, to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in such format as required by the bureau.

(B) The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall compare the information received and the fingerprints of the individual with the computer criminal history files maintained by the bureau and, to the extent permitted by federal law, with federal criminal databases to verify the accuracy of the criminal violation information pursuant to § 38-6-109, and shall report the existence of any criminal history involving the person to the requesting entity, and if the report was made to an entity which is licensed by any state agency, the bureau shall also send a copy of the report showing the criminal history to the state agency.

(C)(i) Pending the outcome of the background check, if required, the applicant for employment or licensee or operator status, for contract services, or for a substitute or volunteer services position, shall be in a conditional status with the child care or state licensing, certifying or approval agency, the state contractor or with the state agency, and such status shall be dependent upon the outcome of the background check; provided, however, no person's employment or contract status may be maintained in a conditional status for a position with any state agency for which federal law or regulations do not permit the state agency to license or approve the position until all necessary licensing requirements are met.

(ii) The employment status of persons for whom a post-employment criminal background check was conducted, or the status of existing licensees or operators, substitutes, volunteers or residents of a child care agency for whom a criminal background check was conducted after license approval, and who were not otherwise subject to a pre-status applicant background check and to the exclusionary provisions provided in this section, shall be governed by any regulations which may govern their status in a regulated entity or by applicable employment law.

(D) The results of the inquiry to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall be maintained by the entity requesting the background check in the records of the person for whom the background check is sought.

(E) If the information on the form appears to have been falsified, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall report such finding to the requesting entity. That entity, or if the entity is licensed by a state agency, the state agency shall notify in writing the appropriate district attorney general of such falsification.

(F) Any costs incurred by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in conducting such investigations of such applicants shall be paid by the entity that requests such investigation and information. Payment of such costs is to be made in accordance with the provisions of § 38-6-103 and § 38-6-109.

(5) The requesting entity may also utilize the information on the form to conduct an inquiry of the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry

pursuant to Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10, for a review of the person's status on such registry. The results of the inquiry to the registry shall be maintained in the applicant's, employee's, substitute's, volunteer's or resident's records.

(h)(1)(A) As a supplemental method of criminal background history review for any applicants for employment, for license or operator status, or for substitute or volunteer status with child care agencies or child care programs, or with the state agencies or their contractors, as listed in subdivision (g)(1) or with the entities which the state agencies may regulate, or for residents of new child care agencies, or for current employees, licensees, operators, substitutes or volunteers of child care agencies or for current residents of child care agencies, those entities listed in subdivision (g)(1) which have an agreement for access to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's criminal history database, may require such persons to submit a disclosure form as set forth in subdivisions (a)(3) and (a)(4), a copy of which shall be maintained with the requesting entity's records, and agree to release all records involving the person relating to the criminal history of such person.

(B) Those entities with such an agreement may then access directly the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Tennessee Crime Information Computer (T.C.I.C.) system and conduct a name search of Tennessee criminal history records by using only the information contained on the disclosure form completed pursuant to subdivision (A), or by using any other information available to the searching entity.

(2) If information obtained by this method indicates that there exists, or may exist, a criminal record on the individual, the entity conducting the search may further review the criminal record history with the individual and, as appropriate, with the entity with whom the individual who is the subject of the review is associated, to obtain further verification. The requesting entity, at its own cost, may also request fingerprint samples as otherwise authorized by this section and submit the fingerprints for a complete Tennessee and federal criminal history background review pursuant to this section and § 38-6-109.

(3) The results of the search shall be maintained in the records of the person on whom the search was made and shall be subject to review by the regulating entities.

(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to mean that any other law which mandates that criminal background checks be conducted on applicants for employment, for license or operator status, for substitute or volunteer service positions or for resident status is made voluntary, repealed or superseded in any manner by the provisions of this subsection, and the provisions of this subsection are supplementary to, and are not in lieu of any mandatory provisions for such other statutorily required criminal background checks.

(i) The provisions of subsections (e) and (f), including, but not limited to, the exclusion of individuals from providing care, being licensed for the care of children or having access to children upon determination of the criminal background of such

individual, the suspension of operations of regulated, certified or approved entities that fail to exclude persons with a criminal background, and the exemptions from the exclusionary provisions shall be applicable to persons having criminal backgrounds as determined by the processes established by subsections (g) and (h).

(j) Any person disqualified from care for or access to children based upon the results of the criminal history background review under subsections (g) and (h) may appeal that determination to a state agency which has made the request as provided in subdivisions (e)(2)-(e)(4).

(k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the exclusion of any individual from providing care for, from being licensed or certified or approved for the care of children pursuant to this part or from having access to a child in a child caring situation if a criminal or juvenile proceeding background is discovered and verified in any other manner other than through a procedure established pursuant to this section. All procedures, rules, and appeal processes established pursuant to this section for the protection of children and the due process rights of excluded individuals shall also be applicable to such individuals.

(l) It is unlawful for any person to falsify any information required on the disclosure form required by this section. A person who knowingly fails to disclose on the disclosure form required information or who knowingly discloses false information or who knowingly assists another to do so shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(m) The Department of Human Services is expressly authorized and directed to implement any of the provisions of this section applicable to child care agencies subject to its authority by public necessity rules by July 1, 2000; provided, any permanent rules shall be promulgated pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 9.

71-3-508. Inspection of persons or entities providing child care.

(a) It is the duty of the department, through its duly authorized agents, to inspect at regular intervals, without previous notice, all child care agencies or suspected child care agencies, as defined in § 71-3-501.

(b)(1) The department is given the right of entrance, privilege of inspection, access to accounts, records, and information regarding the whereabouts of children under care for the purpose of determining the kind and quality of the care provided to the children and to obtain a proper basis for its decisions and recommendations.

(2) If refused entrance for inspection of a licensed, approved or suspected child care agency, the chancery or circuit court of the county where the licensed, approved or suspected child care agency may be located may issue an immediate ex parte order permitting the department's inspection upon a showing of probable cause, and the court may direct any law enforcement officer to aid the department in executing such order and inspection. Refusal to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.

(3) Except where court orders prohibit or otherwise limit access, parents or other caretakers of children in the care of a child care agency licensed pursuant to this part shall be permitted to visit and inspect the facilities and observe the methods for the care of their children at any time during which the children are in the care of the agency and, except those records of other children in the care of the agency and their parents or caretakers, shall further be permitted to inspect any records of the agency which are not privileged, or are not otherwise confidential, as provided by law or regulation, and the parents' or caretakers' access for these purposes shall not be purposely denied by the agency.

(c) Any violation of the rights given in this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 10.

71-3-509. Violations of licensing regulations; probation; civil penalties; suspension, denial and revocation of licenses; appeal procedures.

(a) If any complaint is made to the department concerning any alleged violation of the laws or regulations governing a child care agency, the department shall investigate such complaint and shall take such action as it deems necessary to protect the children in the care of such agency.

(b)(1) If, during the licensing period, the department determines that a child care agency is not in compliance with the laws or regulations governing its operation, and if after reasonable written notice to the agency of the violation, the department determines that the violation remains uncorrected, the department may place the licensed agency on probation for a definite period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days as determined by the department, and the department shall require the posting by the agency of the notice of probation. The department shall provide the agency a written basis describing the violation of the licensing rules that support the basis for the probationary status.

(2)(A) If placed on probation, the agency shall immediately post a copy of the probation notice, together with a list provided by the department of the violations which were the basis for the probation, in a conspicuous place as directed by the department and with the agency's license, and the agency shall immediately notify in writing the custodians of each of the children in its care of the agency's status, the basis for the probation and of the agency's right to an informal review of the probationary status.

(B) If the agency requests an informal review within two (2) business days of the imposition of probation, either verbally or in writing to the department's licensing staff which imposed the probation, the department shall informally review the probationary status by a licensing supervisor or other designee who was not involved in the decision to impose the probation. The agency may submit any written or oral statements as argument to the licensing supervisor or designee within five (5) business days of the imposition of the probation. Written and oral statements may be received by any available electronic means. The

licensing supervisor or designee shall render a decision in writing upholding, modifying or lifting the probationary status within seven (7) business days of the imposition of the probation.

(3) If the licensing supervisor or designee did not lift the probation under subdivision (B), the agency may also appeal such action in writing to the commissioner within five (5) business days of the receipt of the notice of the licensing supervisor or designee's decision regarding the agency's probationary status as determined in subdivision (B). If timely appealed, the department shall conduct an administrative hearing pursuant to the contested case provisions of §§ 4-5-301 et seq. concerning the department's action within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the appeal and shall render a decision in writing within seven (7) business days following conclusion of the hearing. The hearing officer may uphold, modify or lift the probation.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall be discretionary with the department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any licensing action, to impose a civil penalty or to suspend, deny or revoke a license of a child care agency.

(c)(1) If the department determines that there exists any violation with respect to any person or entity required to be licensed pursuant to this part, the department may assess a civil penalty against such person or entity for each separate violation of a statute, rule or order pertaining to such person or entity in an amount ranging from fifty dollars (\$50.00) for minor violations up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for major violations or violations resulting in death or injury to a child as defined in the rules of the department. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate violation.

(2) The department shall by rule establish a graduated schedule of civil penalties designating the minimum and maximum civil penalties that may be assessed pursuant to this subsection. In developing the graduated civil penalty procedure, the following factors may be considered:

(A) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;

(B) The circumstances leading to the violation and the agency's history of violations;

(C) The extent of deviation from the statutes, rules or orders governing the operation of the child care agency; the severity of the violation, including specifically the level of risk of harm to the children in care of the person or entity caused by the violation; and the penalty may be further classified based upon whether the violation resulted in the issuance of an order of summary suspension, denial or revocation of the license of the agency and whether death or injury of a child occurred as a result of violation;

(D) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of noncompliance;

(E) The agency's efforts to comply with the licensing requirements; and

(F) The interest of the public.

(3) The department shall assess the civil penalty in an order which states the reasons for the assessment of the civil penalty, the factors used to determine its assessment and the amount of the penalty.

(4) The order may be served on the licensee personally by an authorized agent of the department who shall complete an affidavit of service, or the order may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(5) The licensee may appeal the penalty to the board of review by filing a request for an appeal in writing with the commissioner within ten (10) days of the service of the order.

(6)(A) Civil penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection shall become final ten (10) days after the date an order of assessment is served if not timely appealed, or, if timely appealed, within seven (7) days following entry of the board's order unless the board's order is stayed.

(B) If the violator fails to pay an assessment when it becomes final, the department may apply to the chancery court for a judgment and seek execution of such judgment.

(C) Jurisdiction for recovery of such penalties shall be in the Chancery Court of Davidson County.

(7) All sums recovered pursuant to this subsection shall be paid into the State Treasury, but shall be earmarked to be used by the department exclusively to improve child care quality in this state by funding activities which include, but are not limited to, child care provider training activities, but excluding any costs associated with conducting criminal background checks.

(8) The provisions of this subsection relative to civil penalties shall be discretionary with the department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any licensing action to suspend, deny or revoke a license of a child care agency. Civil penalties may also be imposed in conjunction with the probation, suspension, denial or revocation of a license.

(d)(1) If the department determines that any applicant for a temporary license or for the renewal of an existing license has failed to attain, or an existing licensee has failed to maintain, compliance with licensing laws or regulations after reasonable notice of such failure and a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate compliance with licensing laws or regulations, the department may deny the application for the new or renewed license or may revoke the existing license; provided, however, the department at any time may deny a temporary license if the applicant fails to meet the initial requirements for its issuance; and, provided, further, if the department determines that repeated or serious violations of licensing laws or regulations warrant the denial or revocation of the license, then,

notwithstanding any provisions of § 4-5-320 or this subsection to the contrary, the department may seek denial or revocation of the license regardless of the licensee's demonstration of compliance either before or after the notice of denial of the application or after notice of the revocation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 4-5-320, the notice of denial or revocation may be served personally by an authorized representative of the department who shall verify service of the notice by affidavit, or the notice may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(3) If application for the temporary, annual, or extended license is denied or if an existing license is revoked, the applicant may appeal the denial or revocation by requesting in writing to the department a hearing before the Child Care Agency Board of Review within ten (10) days of the personal delivery or mailing date of the notice of denial or revocation. Failure to timely appeal shall result in the expiration of any existing license immediately upon the expiration of the time for appeal.

(4) The hearing upon the denial or revocation shall be heard by the board of review within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the notice of denial or revocation; provided, however, for good cause as stated in an order entered on the record, the board or the administrative law judge may continue the hearing. In order to protect the children in the care of the agency from any risk to their health, safety and welfare, the board or administrative law judge shall re-set the hearing at the earliest date that circumstances permit.

(5)(A) If timely appeal is made, pending the hearing upon the denial or revocation, the child care agency may continue to operate pending the decision of the board of review unless the license is summarily suspended as provided in subsection (e).

(B) The board, as part of its decision regarding the status of the applicant's application for a license or the licensee's license, may direct that the child care agency be allowed to operate on a probationary or conditional status, or may grant or continue the license with any restrictions or conditions on the agency's authority to provide care.

(e)(1) Subject to the following provisions of this subsection, if the department determines at anytime that the health, safety or welfare of the children in care of the child care agency imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of the license may be ordered by the department pending any further proceedings for revocation, denial or other action. If the department determines that revocation or denial of the license is warranted following suspension, those proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined as authorized by this part.

(2) The department shall set forth with specificity in its order the legal and factual basis for its decision stating therein the specific laws or regulations which were violated by the agency, and shall state with specificity in the order the reasons that the issuance of the order of summary suspension is necessary to adequately protect the health, safety or welfare of children in the care of the child

care agency. Summary suspension may be ordered in circumstances that have resulted in death, injury or harm to a child or which have posed or threatened to pose a serious and immediate threat of harm or injury to a child based upon the intentional or negligent failure to comply with licensing laws or regulations.

(3) In issuing an order of summary suspension of a license the department shall use, at a minimum, the following procedures:

(A) The department shall proceed with the summary suspension of the agency's license and shall notify the licensee of the opportunity for an informal hearing within three (3) business days of the issuance of the order of summary suspension before an administrative law judge or before a hearing officer who is not an employee of the department.

(B) The notice provided to the licensee may be provided by any reasonable means and, consistent with the provisions of subdivision (2), shall inform the licensee of the reasons for the action or intended action by the department and of the opportunity for an informal hearing as permitted by subdivision (C).

(C) The informal hearing described by this subdivision shall not be required to be held under the contested case provisions of § 4-5-301 et seq. The hearing is intended to provide an informal, reasonable opportunity for the licensee to present to the hearing official the licensee's version of the circumstances leading to the suspension order. The sole issues to be considered are whether the public health, safety or welfare imperatively required emergency action by the department and what, if any, corrective measures have been taken by the child care agency following the violation of licensing laws or regulations and prior to the issuance of the order of summary suspension that eliminate the danger to the health, safety or welfare of the children in the care of the agency. The hearing official may lift, modify or continue the order of summary suspension.

(D) Subsequent to the hearing on the summary suspension, the department may proceed with revocation or denial of the license or other action as authorized by this part, regardless of the decision concerning summary suspension of the license.

(4) The department shall by rule establish any further necessary criteria which it determines are required for the determination of circumstances that warrant imposition of the summary suspension order and any other necessary procedures for implementation of the summary suspension process.

(5) If the conditions existing in the child care agency present an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of the children in care, the department may also seek a temporary restraining order from the chancery or circuit court of the county in which the child care agency is located seeking immediate closure of the agency to prevent further harm or threat of harm to the children in care, or immediate restraint against any violations of the licensing laws or regulations which are harming or which threaten harm to the children in

care. The department may seek any further injunctive relief as permitted by law in order to protect children from the violations, or threatened violations of the licensing laws or regulations. The use of injunctive relief as provided by this subdivision may be used as an alternative, or supplementary measure, to the issuance of an order of summary suspension or any other administrative proceedings.

(f)(1) In determining whether to deny, revoke or summarily suspend a license, the department may choose to deny, revoke or suspend only certain authority of the licensee to operate and may permit the licensee to continue operation, but may restrict or modify the licensee's authority to provide certain services or perform certain functions, including, but not limited to: transportation or food service, enrollment of children at the agency, the agency's hours of operation, the agency's use of certain parts of the agency's physical facilities or any other function of the child care agency which the department determines should be restricted or modified to protect the health, safety or welfare of the children. The board of review, in considering the actions to be taken regarding the license, may likewise restrict a license or place whatever conditions on the license and the licensee it deems appropriate for the protection of children in the care of the agency.

(2) The actions by the department or the board authorized by this subsection may be appealed as otherwise provided in this part for any denial, revocation or suspension.

(g)(1) When an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked, on one (1) occasion, the child care agency may not reapply for a license for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of the denial or revocation order if not appealed, or, if appealed, from the effective date of the board's or reviewing court's order.

(2) If application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked, on two (2) occasions, the child care agency may not reapply for a license for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of the denial or revocation if not appealed or, if appealed, from the effective date of the board's or reviewing court's order.

(3) If an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked on three (3) occasions, the agency shall not receive another license for the care of children.

(4) No person who served as full or part owner or as director or as a member of the management of a child care agency shall receive a license to operate a child care agency if that person participated in such capacity in a child care agency which has been denied a license, or which had a license revoked, on three (3) occasions.

(5)(A) The time restrictions of subdivisions (1) and (2) may be waived by the board of review in the hearing in which the denial or revocation is sustained, or, if requested by the former licensee in writing to the commissioner, in a separate subsequent hearing before the board of

review or, in the discretion of the commissioner, upon review by the commissioner.

(B) The agency must show to the board's or the commissioner's satisfaction that the agency has corrected the deficiencies which led to the denial or revocation, and that the child care agency can demonstrate that it has the present and future ability, and is willing, to maintain compliance with licensing laws or regulations. The decision of the board or the commissioner shall be reduced to an order, which shall be a final order pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3, and may be appealed pursuant to § 4-5-322.

(C) No waiver may be granted for any permanent restriction that has been imposed pursuant to subdivision (3).

(h)(1) In conducting hearings of the appeal of a denial or revocation of a license before the board of review or for review of summary suspension orders, it is the legislative intent that such hearings be promptly determined consistent with the safety of the children in the care of the child care agency appealing the department's licensing action and with the due process rights of the license applicants or licensees.

(2) If, however, the Administrative Procedures Division of the Office of the Secretary of State certifies by letter to the recording secretary of the board of review that the division's contested case docket prevents the scheduling of a hearing on the appeal of the denial or revocation of a license before the board of review within the initial timeframes set forth in this part, then the department shall have the authority to obtain an attorney who shall act as the administrative law judge to conduct the proceedings before the board. The substitute administrative law judge may be obtained by contract with a private attorney or by contract or agreement with another state agency. The substitute administrative law judge shall have all authority as an administrative law judge of the Department of State. The hearing may be continued by order of the board for the purpose of obtaining a substitute judge.

(3) Hearings on summary suspension orders shall be heard by an administrative law judge from the Administrative Procedures Division of the Secretary of State's Office, if the administrative law judge is available within the time frames for a summary suspension hearing. If the Administrative Procedures Division of the Secretary of State's Office informs the department that an administrative law judge is unavailable, the department may obtain an administrative law judge or hearing officer who is not an employee of the department who may be obtained by the department by contract with a private attorney or by contract or agreement with another state agency. The administrative law judge or hearing officer shall have authority, as otherwise permitted in this section, to enter orders binding on the department resulting from show cause hearings involving summary suspension orders. If the Administrative Procedures Division of the Office of the Secretary of State informs the department that the division's contested case docket prevents the scheduling of a hearing on the issuance of a summary suspension order within the initial timeframes set forth in this part, and if the department is unable to obtain a

private or state agency administrative law judge or hearing officer to hear the show cause hearing on the summary suspension order within the timeframes set forth in this part, the department may utilize a hearing officer from the department's administrative review section.

(i) By July 1, 2000, any initial rules to implement the provisions of this section shall be by public necessity rules of the department; provided, however, any permanent rules shall be promulgated pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 11.

71-3-510. Board of review - Composition.

(a)(1) Actions by the Departments of Human Services and Children's Services to deny or revoke or to otherwise limit any license, except for the summary suspension of a license, or to review any civil penalties imposed by the Department of Human Services, shall be reviewed by a child care agency licensing board of review.

(2) In reviewing any licensing action pursuant to this part or pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5, the board of review, shall consist of nine (9) persons. The board shall include the Commissioners of Health and Education or their designees, the Executive Director of the Commission on Children and Youth or designee, and a member from one (1) current or previous standards committee from the Departments of Human Services and Children's Services. Four (4) persons shall be selected from a pool of up to twelve (12) representatives at-large to be selected by the five (5) stated above as follows:

(A) Four (4) shall be selected to serve for one (1) year;

(B) Four (4) shall be selected to serve for two (2) years; and

(C) Four (4) shall be selected to serve for three (3) years.

Thereafter, each at-large representative shall be selected to serve for terms of three (3) years or until such representative's successor is selected.

(b) A quorum of the board shall consist of five (5) persons.

(c) In establishing a quorum for the board to conduct its review of the licensing actions of the departments, the chair shall randomly select the names of the at-large members of the board for the board's current licensing review action from the pool of twelve (12) persons selected pursuant to subsection (a) until the nine (9) member composition is reached or, if that is not possible, until a quorum is reached.

(d) The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee shall serve as the chair of the board until a chair is selected by the board. The board shall elect a vice-chair who shall serve in the absence of the chair. If the chair resigns, is unable to perform the duties of the chairperson or is removed or the chair's term on the board expires, the Commissioner of Education shall appoint a new chair until the board can

elect a chair. The vice-chair shall have authority to sign all orders of the board in the absence of the chair and for actions of the panels under subsection (f).

(e) The recording secretary for the board shall be a member of the professional staff of the Department of Human Services based upon an inter-agency agreement for the services of the recording secretary as the Commissioners of the Departments of Children's Services and Human Services may deem appropriate, and any person selected by the agreement of the departments shall serve as recording secretary for the board. The recording secretary shall be responsible for scheduling the board's meetings and arranging for the facilities to conduct the hearings of the board for both departments and such other duties as may be necessary to accommodate the business of the board. The recording secretary shall serve without additional compensation from the department.

(f) In order to complete the work of the board, the chair may appoint one or more panels of the board with a quorum of five (5) members, at least two (2) of whom shall be randomly selected at-large members selected by the chair. The chair of the board of review shall appoint the chair of the panel. The panel shall have complete authority to hear any case under the board's jurisdiction and shall have complete authority to enter any necessary orders concerning licensing actions conducted before the board of review. Any orders of the panel shall be signed by the chair of the panel, or by the board chair or vice chair.

(g) Any necessary regulations governing the board's procedure shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2.

(h) Any applicant or licensee may petition the Chancery Court of Davidson County pursuant to § 4-5-322 for judicial review of the board's decision.

(i)(1) All members of the review board shall serve without pay.

(2) The three (3) members at-large who are selected to serve on the board, the representatives of the advisory board or advisory council of the departments, and the members from the standards committees of the departments shall receive reimbursement in conformity with law and regulations for their expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties pursuant to the provisions of this part. Such expenses for the representatives from the advisory board or council and the standards committees from the respective department shall be paid from the funds appropriated to the departments.

(3) The expenses for the at-large members shall be shared equally by the Departments of Children's Services and Human Services.

(4) All reimbursement for travel expenses shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive State Travel Regulations applicable to state employees.

SECTION 12.

71-3-511. Licensing standards committees.

(a)(1) The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services shall appoint a standards committee composed of sixteen (16) citizens, four (4) from each grand division of the state, and four (4) at large for the purpose of developing or reviewing standards and regulations for each class of child care agency defined in this part.

(b) For any new class of child care agency as defined in this part, the standards committee shall develop and recommend to the commissioner the standards and regulations for that new class of child care agency. The standards and regulations of each existing class of child care agency shall be reviewed by a standards committee beginning every four (4) years following the date of submission of its last recommendations or more frequently as the commissioner may direct.

(c) The standards committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the commissioner in recommending any initial standards or regulations for any new class of child care agency or any changes to the existing standards or regulations of any class of child care agency.

(d) The committee shall cease to exist upon submitting its recommendations to the commissioner, but may be re-established by the commissioner at anytime to further review its recommendations or to consider additional standards or regulations or to consider revisions to the standards or regulations.

(e) In making appointments to the committee, the commissioner shall strive to ensure that at least one (1) person serving on the committee is sixty (60) years of age or older and that at least one (1) person serving on the committee is a member of a racial minority.

(f) The members of the committee shall not receive any compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their travel to and from the committee meetings and for their meals and lodging in accordance with the state travel procedures and regulations.

SECTION 13.

71-3-512. Five-year olds attending day care institutions lacking kindergarten status.

(a) A family child care home, group child care home or child care center which lacks approved kindergarten status for purposes of § 49-6-201 shall not enroll or continue to enroll any child five (5) years of age during the period of the local education agency's regular school year, without first obtaining from the child's parents or legal guardians a signed acknowledgment of the fact that the child's attendance at the family child care home, group child care home or child care center does not satisfy the mandatory kindergarten prerequisite for the child's enrollment in the first grade.

(b) Any such signed acknowledgment shall be retained by the family child care home, group child care home or child care center for a period of two (2) years. Failure to comply with the requirements of this section may subject the family child care home, group child care home, or child care center to probation, denial or revocation of the child care agency license, or to civil penalty, by the department.

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-1-105, is amended by deleting subsection (5) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following new subsection (5):

(5)(A) License or approve, and supervise, adult day care centers and child care agencies as defined in Chapter 2, Part 4, and Chapter 3, Part 5 of this title, and to promulgate any regulations it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of the licensing laws.

(B) Establish criteria for the approval of persons or entities who receive any state or federal funds for the provision of care for adults or children whether those persons or entities are licensed or approved as provided in Chapter 2 Part 4 or Chapter 3, Part 5, of this title or whether they are otherwise unlicensed, and, if determined by the department to be necessary, provide for such criteria in regulations promulgated pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2; and

(C) Utilize any state, federal, local or private funding to provide for any child care or adult day care services or training which it deems necessary to promote the welfare of children and adults or which are required or permitted by state or federal law or regulations, and to provide such services or training directly or by contract with any public or private entities;

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-6-109, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

38-6-109. Verification of criminal violation information.

(a)(1) The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall process requests for criminal background checks from any authorized persons, organizations or entities permitted by law to seek criminal history background checks on certain persons pursuant to such format and under such procedures as it may require.

(b)(1) At the request of any persons, organizations or entities authorized by law to make such requests, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, shall receive fingerprint samples from the persons, organizations or entities permitted by law to make such request and shall check such prints against its records by using its computer files of criminal offenders contained in the Tennessee Crime Information Center (T.C.I.C.) to process these requests and, to the extent permitted by federal law, shall also check such prints against records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to determine if prior criminal history or convictions exist.

(2) Upon completion of the search, the bureau shall report its findings to the requesting persons, organizations or entities authorized by law to receive such information.

(c)(1) Agencies or organizations which have an agreement to do so with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and which have any responsibility or authority under law for conducting criminal history background reviews of persons, may also access directly the computer files of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (T.C.I.C.) using only names or other identifying data elements to obtain available

Tennessee criminal history background information for purpose of such background reviews.

(2) If review by the method permitted by this subsection indicates the need for further verification of the individual's criminal history, and if authorized by the requesting entity's legal authority, the requesting entity may submit fingerprint samples for a criminal history background check by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation as otherwise authorized by this section.

(d) The fees for fingerprint searches, other than background checks for volunteers and substitute staff, shall be twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) for a Tennessee search and an additional twenty-four dollars (\$24.00) fee for conducting a Federal Bureau of Investigation search. The fees for volunteers and substitute staff shall be eighteen dollars (\$18.00) for a Tennessee search and an additional eighteen dollars (\$18.00) for conducting a Federal Bureau of Investigation search.

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-6-114, is repealed.

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-408, is repealed.

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, is amended by adding Sections 19 through 37 as a new Part 5.

SECTION 19.

37-5-501. Definitions.

(a) As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires: "child care agency" includes: "child abuse agency", "child caring institution", "child placing agency", "detention center", "family boarding home or foster home", "group care home", "maternity home", or "temporary holding resource" as defined in subsection (b).

(b) As used in this part, unless otherwise excluded pursuant to § 37-5-503, and unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Care giver(s) or care provider(s)" mean the person(s) or entity(ies) responsible for providing for the supervision, protection and basic needs of the child;

(2) "Child or children" means a person or persons under the age of eighteen (18);

(3)(A) "Child abuse agency" means and includes any place, facility or service operated by any entity or person, which undertakes to or does provide any services of any nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, emergency shelter care, homemaker services, or parent training services, designed to prevent or treat child abuse or neglect or to protect children from child abuse or neglect. "Child abuse agency" does not include any entity or a person licensed by the State of Tennessee to practice medicine or psychology while in the course of such practice; nor any school, hospital, mental health center, or similar institution operated

or approved by any agency or department of the state; nor any church or church-related organization;

(B) Nothing in subdivision (1)(A) shall be construed, however, to diminish or repeal the duty of any person to report suspected child abuse pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 1, Parts 4 and 6; and

(C) The provisions of this subdivision (1) do not constitute an appropriation of funds, and, commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, no funds shall be expended under the provisions of this subdivision unless such funds are specifically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act pursuant to §§ 9-6-101 – 9-6-114, or a specific amendment or supplement thereto;

(4) “Child care” means, for purposes of this part, the provision of supervision, protection and the basic needs of a child for twenty-four (24) hours a day including the provision of such temporary services to a child awaiting placement in permanent care. Care for a child of less than twenty-four (24) hours duration is licensed by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5;

(5) “Child care agency” or “agency” means, for purposes of this part, and only where the context requires, the person or entity which provides child care, regardless of whether such person or entity is licensed.

(6) “Child caring institution” means any place or facility operated by any entity or person providing residential child care for thirteen (13) or more children who are not related to the primary care givers;

(7) “Child placing agency” means any entity or person which places children in foster boarding homes or foster homes for temporary care or for adoption or any other entity or person or group of persons who are engaged in providing adoption studies or foster care studies or placement services as defined by the rules of the department;

(8) “Commissioner” means the chief administrative officer in charge of the Department of Children’s Services.

(9) “Department” means the Department of Children’s Services.

(10) “Detention center” means a place or facility operated by any entity or person, governmental or otherwise, for the confinement in a hardware secure facility of a child or children who meet the criteria of § 37-1-114(c) or other applicable laws and who:

(A) Are in need of legal temporary placement;

(B) Are awaiting adjudication of a pending petition; or

(C) Are awaiting disposition and/or placement.

(11) "Family boarding home or foster home" means a home (occupied residence) operated by any entity or person which provides residential child care to at least one (1) child but not more than six (6) children who are not related to the primary care givers.

(12) "Foster child or children" means the person or persons who are living in a child care or residential child care facility as a result of the removal by a court of custody from the child's parent(s) to the Department of Children's Services, by a surrender of parental or guardian rights executed by the child's parent(s) or guardian, or as the result of the execution of any legal document transferring legal custody from the parent(s) or guardian of the child to the department, or to the entity or person operating a child care agency.

(13) "Group care home" means any place or facility operated by any entity or person which provides residential child care for at least seven (7) children but not more than twelve (12) children who are not related to the primary care givers.

(14) "Maternity home" means any place or facility operated by any entity or person which receives, treats or cares for more than one (1) child or adult who is pregnant out of wedlock, either before, during or within two (2) weeks after childbirth; provided, that the licensed child-placing agencies and licensed maternity homes may use a family boarding home approved and supervised by the agency or home, as a part of their work, for as many as three (3) children or adults who are pregnant out of wedlock; and provided further, that the provisions of this definition shall not include children or women who receive maternity care in the home of a person to whom they are kin within the sixth degree of kindred computed according to civil law, nor does it apply to any maternity care provided by general or special hospitals licensed according to law and in which maternity treatment and care is part of the medical services performed and the care of children is brief and incidental.

(15) "Related" means for purposes of "child care" the children, step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, siblings of the whole or half-blood, step-siblings, nieces, nephews or foster children of the primary care giver. For purposes of "residential child care" it means children, step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, siblings of the whole or half-blood, step-siblings, nieces or nephews of the primary care provider.

(16) "Residential child care" means the provision of supervision, and/or protection, and meeting the basic needs of a child for twenty-four (24) hours per day.

(17) "Temporary holding resource" means a place or facility housing primarily no more than eight (8) children operated by any entity or person, governmental or otherwise, providing a short-term (less than seventy-two (72) hours, exclusive of non-judicial days) placement alternative for a child or children in a primarily staff secure facility, as defined by the department, while the child or children await adjudication of a pending petition or disposition following adjudication, or pending return to a dispositional placement. This facility shall have a maximum of two (2) hardware secure rooms. At least half of the rooms in the facility shall be non-hardware secure.

SECTION 20.

37-5-502. Basis for licensing; regulations; license application; temporary license; non-transferability of license; transfer of operation to circumvent licensing laws or regulations; fees.

(a)(1) All persons or entities operating a child abuse agency, child-caring institution, child-placing agency, detention center, family boarding home or foster home, group care home, maternity home, or temporary holding resource, as defined in § 37-5-501, must be licensed by the Department of Children's Services as provided by this part.

(2)(A) The Department of Children's Services shall have authority to issue regulations pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2, for the licensing of any persons or entities subject to any provisions of this part and the enforcement of appropriate standards for the health, safety and welfare of children under the care or supervision of those entities.

(B) To the extent they are not inconsistent with the statutory provisions of this part, the regulations of the Department of Children's Services which are in effect upon the effective date of this act shall remain in force and effect until modified by regulatory action of the department.

(3) The Department of Children's Services' regulations of child care agencies shall be developed, and the continued approval of the licensing of a child care agency, shall be based upon the following criteria:

(A) The safety, welfare and best interests of the children in the care of the agency;

(B) The capability, training and character of the persons providing or supervising the care to the children;

(C) The quality of the methods of care and instruction provided for the children;

(D) The suitability of the facilities provided for the care of the children; and

(E) The adequacy of the methods of administration and the management of the child care agency, the agency's personnel policies, and the financing of the agency; and

(F) The present need for the child care agency.

(b)(1) The department shall provide reasonable assistance to applicants or licensees in meeting the child care standards of the department unless the circumstances demonstrate that further assistance is not compatible with the continued safety, health or welfare of the children in the agency's care and that regulatory action affecting the agency's license is warranted. All costs and

expenses arising from or related to meeting the child care standards of the department shall be borne entirely by the applicant or licensee.

(2) If a licensee is denied the renewal of a license, or if a license is revoked, or if any applicant for a license cannot meet the standards, then the department shall assist in planning for the placement of such children in licensed child care agencies, or other suitable care, return them to their own homes or make any other plans as seem necessary and advisable to meet the particular needs of the children involved.

(c) Application for a license to operate a child care agency shall be made in writing to the department in such manner as the department determines and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in the fee schedule in subsection (f).

(d)(1)(A) If the department determines that the applicant for a license, which is not the renewal of an existing license, has presented satisfactory evidence that the facility which is proposed for the care of children has received fire safety and environmental safety approval, that the applicant and the personnel who will care for the children are capable in all substantial respects to care for the children and that the applicant has the ability and intent to comply with the licensing law and regulations, the department shall issue a temporary license to the applicant; provided, however, no temporary license shall issue for child care agencies which federal law or regulations do not permit the department to license until all necessary licensing requirements are met.

(B) If the department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted license which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.

(2) The purpose of the temporary license is to permit the license applicant to demonstrate to the department that it has complied with all licensing laws and regulations applicable to its classification prior to the issuance of an initial annual license.

(3) Within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the temporary license, the department shall determine if the applicant has complied with all regulations governing the classification of child care agency for which the application was made.

(4)(A) If the department determines that the applicant has complied with all licensing regulations for the classification of child care agency for which application was made, the department shall issue an annual license.

(B) If the department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted license which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.

(5) In granting any license, the department may limit the total number of children who may be enrolled in the agency regardless of whether the agency may have the physical capacity to care for more children.

(6) The licensee shall post the license in a clearly visible location as determined by the department so that persons visiting the agency can readily view the license.

(7) If the department fails to issue or deny an annual license within ninety (90) days of the granting of the temporary license, the temporary license shall remain in effect, unless suspended, as provided in § 37-5-514 until such determination is made. If an annual license is denied following the issuance of a temporary license, and if a timely appeal is made of the denial of the annual license, the temporary license shall remain in effect, unless suspended, until the board of review renders a decision regarding the denial of the annual license.

(8) If a temporary or annual license is denied, or an annual license is restricted the applicant may appeal the denial or restriction as provided in § 37-5-514.

(e)(1) Except as provided herein, no license for a child care agency shall be transferable, and the transfer by sale or lease, or in any other manner, of the operation of the agency to any other person or entity shall void the existing license immediately and any pending appeal involving the status of the license, and the agency shall be required to close immediately. If the transferee has made application for, and is granted, a temporary license, the agency may continue operation under the direction of the new licensee. The new licensee in such circumstances may not be the transferor or any person or entity acting on behalf of the transferor.

(2) If the department determines that any person or entity has transferred nominal control of an agency to any persons or entities who are determined by the department to be acting on behalf of the purported transferor in order to circumvent a history of violations of the licensing law or regulations or to otherwise attempt to circumvent the licensing law or regulations or any prior licensing actions instituted by the department, the department may deny the issuance of any license to the applicant. The denial of the license may be appealed as provided in § 37-5-514.

(3)(A) The license of any agency shall not be voided nor shall any pending appeal be voided pursuant to this subsection solely for the reason that the agency is subject to judicial orders directing the transfer of control or management of a child care agency or its license to any receiver, trustee, administrator or executor of an estate, or any similarly situated person or entity.

(B) If the current licensee dies, and provided that no licensing violations require the suspension, denial or revocation of the agency's license, the department may grant family members of the licensee, or administrators or executors of the licensee, a temporary license to continue operation for a period of ninety (90) days. At the end of such

period, the department shall determine whether an annual or extended license should be granted to a new licensee as otherwise provided in this section.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the department from taking any regulatory or judicial action as may be required pursuant to the licensing laws and regulations that may be necessary to protect the children in the care of such agency.

(f) Prior to January 1, 2001, the licensing fees as they existed for child care agencies on June 30, 2000, shall apply. On and after January 1, 2001, the following fees shall apply to applications for licenses for child care agencies licensed pursuant to this part:

- (1) Family boarding home or foster care home.....\$25.00
- (2) Group care home\$25.00
- (3) Any child-caring institution or child-placing agency\$25.00
- (4) Maternity home.....\$25.00
- (5) Child abuse agency\$25.00
- (6) Detention center\$25.00
- (7) Temporary holding resources\$25.00

(g) All licensure application and renewal fees collected by the department pursuant to this part shall be paid into the general fund, but shall be earmarked for and dedicated to the Department of Children's Services. Such earmarked fees shall be used by the department exclusively to improve child care quality in this state by funding activities which include, but are not limited to, child care provider training activities, but excluding any costs associated with conducting criminal background checks.

(h) A license issued to a child-placing agency by the Department of Children's Services shall include all boarding homes, group care homes or foster homes approved, supervised and used by the licensed agency as a part of its work.

(i) Notwithstanding any provisions of Title 13, Chapter 7, to the contrary, upon adoption of a resolution by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body, any zoning authority, in determining the suitability of a request for any use of property for the establishment or alteration of any child care agency, may consider the criminal background of the person or persons making a request to such board or may consider the criminal background of any person or persons who will manage or operate such child care agency. The board may require the person to submit a fingerprint sample and a criminal history disclosure form and may submit the fingerprint sample for comparison by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation pursuant to § 38-6-109, or it may conduct the background check by other means as it deems appropriate. The zoning authority shall be responsible for all costs associated with obtaining such criminal background information.

SECTION 21.

37-5-503. Program and facilities exempt from licensing.

The following entities, facilities or programs are excluded from licensing or approval as child care agencies pursuant to this part:

- (a) All child care regulated by the Departments of Education or Human Services;
- (b) Public or private summer day camps or overnight camps such as those operated by the Boy or Girl Scouts, the YMCA or YWCA, by church or religious organizations or by organizations representing disabled children which operate less than ninety (90) days per year and other similar businesses or programs as determined by the department;
- (c) Entities or persons licensed or otherwise regulated by other agencies of the state or federal governments providing health, psychiatric or psychological care or treatment or mental health care or counseling for children while the entity or person is engaged in such licensed or regulated activity;
- (d) Schools and educational programs and facilities, the primary purpose of which is to provide a regular course of study necessary for advancement to a higher educational level or completion of a prescribed course of study, and which may, incident to such educational purpose, provide boarding facilities to the students of such programs; provided, that boarding schools which provide services intended to correct or ameliorate behaviors of youth which prevent or inhibit their ability to function normally in their home, community, or school; or agencies serving children as an alternative to their remaining in a dysfunctional or harmful home environment, shall not be exempted from licensure as a child care agency under this part; and provided further, that the Tennessee Preparatory School is not excluded from approval pursuant to this part; and
- (e) Orphanages or other similarly designated homes affiliated with, funded, and operated by a church or religious organization, which homes receive their principal financial support from such church or religious affiliation in counties having a population of not less than twelve thousand three hundred (12,300) nor more than twelve thousand three hundred fifty (12,350) according to the 1970 federal census.

SECTION 22.

37-5-504. Preexisting agencies subject to chapter.

All child-caring institutions, child-placing agencies and maternity homes chartered in this state prior to the passage of this part shall be subject to all of its requirements.

SECTION 23.

37-5-505. Receiving children.

Child-caring institutions, and child-placing agencies, family boarding homes, group care homes or foster homes, when licensed in accordance with the provisions of this part, may receive needy or dependent children from their parents or legal guardians for special,

temporary or continued care. The parents or guardians may sign releases or agreements giving to such institutions or agencies custody and control of the persons of such children during the period of such care, which may be extended until the children arrive at legal age or they may surrender such children to a licensed child-placing agency for purposes of adoption, such surrender to be in conformity with the provisions of the law governing the surrender of children for adoption.

SECTION 24.

37-5-506. Selection and supervision of foster homes.

(a) Child-placing agencies, in placing children in private families, shall safeguard their welfare by a thorough investigation of each applicant and its home and its environment, carefully select the home in which the child is placed, and personally and adequately supervise each home and child until the child is legally adopted or released.

(b) All children placed in private families shall be, as far as it is practicable, placed with those of the same religious faith as the children themselves, or their parents.

SECTION 25.

37-5-507. Unlicensed placement of children for care or adoption.

(a) Private individuals, including midwives, physicians, nurses, hospital officials, lawyers and the officials of any nonchartered and/or nonlicensed child-caring institution, child-placing agency, or maternity home, are forbidden to engage in placing children for temporary care or for adoption.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 26.

37-1-508. Injunctions against unlicensed operations.

(a) The department may, in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee governing injunctions, maintain an action in the name of the State of Tennessee to enjoin any person, partnership, association, corporation or other entity from establishing, conducting, managing or operating any place or facility providing services to children without having a license as required by law, or from continuing to operate any such place or facility following suspension of a license or following the effective date of the denial or revocation of a license.

(b) In charging any defendant in a complaint for such injunction, it shall be sufficient to charge that such defendant did, upon a certain day and in a certain county, establish, conduct, manage or operate a place, home or facility of any kind which is a child care agency as defined in this part or to charge that the defendant is about to do so without having in effect a license as required by law, or that the defendant continues to operate any such place or facility following suspension of a license, or following the effective date of the denial or revocation of a license, without averring any further or more particular facts concerning the case. Refusal to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.

SECTION 27.

37-5-509. Criminal violations.

(a) Any person or entity, as defined in § 37-5-501, operating a child care agency without being licensed by the department or who continues to operate while a suspension of the license is in effect, or who operates a child care agency following the effective date of a denial or revocation of a license, commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) Each day of operation without an effective license constitutes a separate offense.

(c)(1) It is unlawful for any person who is an operator, licensee or employee of a child care agency to make any statement, whether written or verbal, knowing such statement is false, including, but not limited, to statements regarding:

(A) the number of children in the child care agency;

(B) the area of the child care agency used for child care; or

(C) the credentials, licensure or qualification of any care giver, employee, substitute or volunteer of the child care agency, when such statement is made to a parent or guardian of a child in the care of such agency, to any state or local official having jurisdiction over such agencies, or to any law enforcement officer.

(2) In order for subdivision (1) to apply, the falsity of the statement must place at risk the health or safety of a child in the care of the child care agency.

(3) A violation of subdivision (1) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) This subsection includes statements made in any child care agency license application that misrepresents or conceals a material fact that would have resulted in the license being denied.

(5) In addition to any punishment authorized under this subsection, the department may also take any licensure action authorized under this part.

SECTION 28.

37-5-510. Public agencies - Inspection and report.

(a) Any child care agency, as defined in § 37-5-501, which is under the direct management of an administrative department of the state, a county, or a municipality, or any combination of these three (3), shall not be subject to license, but shall meet the minimum standards for programs and care as required of such child care agencies.

(b)(1) The commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized representative, shall make periodic inspections of such publicly administered child care agencies.

(2) The report of such inspections and recommendations shall be made in writing to the executive head of the publicly administered child care agency, the board of directors, if any, and/or the division of the state, county or municipal government which has the duty under the law to operate such agency.

(c) It is the duty of the department to cooperate with the publicly administered agencies herein referred to, to implement recommended changes in program and policies.

(d) If, within a reasonable time, such standards and recommendations are not met, it shall be the duty of the commissioner to make public in the community in which this agency is located, the report of the above-mentioned inspection.

(e)(1) If violations of the standards for child care agencies are found and are not corrected within a reasonable time, or, if serious violations are found which meet the requirements which would justify the suspension of a child care agency's license pursuant to § 4-5-320, the department may file a complaint in the chancery court of the county in which the child care agency is located.

(2) The chancery court shall have jurisdiction to hear the complaint and to enter any orders or injunctive relief necessary to ensure the correction of such violations or to suspend the operations of the facility for the protection of the children who are in the care of the child care agency.

SECTION 29.

37-5-511. Criminal violation information required of persons having access to children; Review of vulnerable persons registry; Verification; Exclusion from access to children.

(a)(1) Each person:

(A) applying to work with children as a paid employee with a child care agency as defined in § 37-5-501, or with the department in any position in which any significant contact with children is likely in the course of the person's employment; or

(B) a new volunteer who is expected to provide volunteer services in excess of twenty (20) hours per month in a child care agency, or with the department, in any position in which any significant contact with children is likely in the course of the person's volunteer status, shall complete a criminal history disclosure form in a manner approved by the department, and shall agree to release all records involving the person relating criminal history of such person to the child care agency and to the Department of Children's Services for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of criminal violation information contained on the disclosure form required by this section.

(2) Such persons also shall submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted through the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and shall submit to a review of such person's status on the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry under Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10;

(3) The disclosure forms shall include at a minimum the following information:

(A) The social security number of the applicant or volunteer;

(B) The complete name of the applicant or volunteer;

(C) Disclosure of information relative to any violations of the law, including pending criminal charges of any kind, and any conviction involving a sentence or suspended or reduced sentence and a release of all records involving the person's criminal background history; and

(D) A space for the applicant or volunteer to state any circumstances which should be considered in determining whether to allow the person to be employed or to remain as a resident in the agency or to provide volunteer services.

(4) The form shall notify the applicant or volunteer that falsification of required information may subject the person to criminal prosecution, and that the person's employment or volunteer status with the agency or the department is conditional pending a criminal records history review regarding the person's criminal history status.

(5) A copy of the disclosure form shall be maintained in the child care agency's records for review by the department, and the department shall maintain a copy of the disclosure form in the records of the applicant for employment or volunteer services with the department.

(b)(1) The disclosure form shall be sent to the department by the child care agency and, pursuant to § 38-6-109, the department may directly access the computer files of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Tennessee Crime Information Center (T.C.I.C.) using only names or other identifying data elements contained in the disclosure form or such other information as may be available to the department to obtain available Tennessee criminal history background information for the purpose of criminal background reviews.

(2) If information obtained by this method indicates that there exists or may exist a criminal record on the individual, the department may further review the criminal record history with the individual and the entity with whom the individual is associated to obtain further verification, and the department may request fingerprint samples from the individual and submit the fingerprints for a complete Tennessee and federal criminal history background review pursuant to § 38-6-109. The department shall pay the costs of such fingerprint background checks pursuant to provisions of §§ 38-6-103 and 38-6-109.

(3) Pending the outcome of the background check, the applicant for employment or for a volunteer services position shall be conditional with the agency or with the department, and shall be dependent upon the outcome of the background check.

(4) The results of the inquiry to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall be recorded in the applicant's or volunteer's records.

(5) If the information on the form appears to have been falsified, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall report such finding to the department. The department shall notify in writing the appropriate district attorney general of such falsification.

(c) The agency, and the department for its employees and volunteers, shall utilize the information on the form to conduct an inquiry of the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry pursuant to Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10, for a review of the person's status on such registry. The results of the inquiry to the registry shall be maintained in the applicant's or volunteer's records.

(d)(1) Whether obtained by use of the procedures established in this section or whether such information is obtained by any other means, conviction of an offense, or a lesser included offense, or a finding in a juvenile proceeding, involving the physical, sexual or emotional abuse or gross neglect of a child or which constitutes conviction of an offense, or a finding in a juvenile proceeding, involving violence against a child, or any person, or conviction of an offense determined by the department, pursuant to properly promulgated rules, to present a threat to the health, safety or welfare of children, and any pending warrants, indictments or presentments, or pending juvenile proceedings, for such offenses or acts as a juvenile, as determined by rules of the department, or the identification of the individual on the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry pursuant to Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10, shall disqualify the individual from employment with, as a licensee of a child care agency or from providing any volunteer services to children in, or from having any access whatsoever to children as a resident of, a child care agency as defined by this part, or with the department; provided, however, the exclusionary provisions of this section shall not apply to children in the care, custody or control of the department.

(2) No person who is currently charged with or who has been convicted of or pled guilty to a violation of § 39-13-213, § 55-10-101, § 55-10-102 or § 55-10-401, or any felony involving use of a motor vehicle while under the influence of any intoxicant, may, for a period of five (5) years after the date of such conviction or felony plea, be employed as or serve as a driver transporting children for a child care agency.

(3) The child care agency, and the department for its employees, shall immediately exclude an individual from employment or volunteer services with children, if the results of the criminal background check or review of the vulnerable person's registry demonstrate to the agency, or upon review by the department demonstrate, that the criminal history of such individual is within the prohibited categories established in subdivision (1). If an exemption from the exclusion is provided for by rule of the department pursuant to subsection (e), such person shall remain excluded until it is determined by the department whether there is a basis for an exception from the exclusion.

(4) The failure of a child care agency to exclude a person with a prohibited criminal history from employment with, or from the provision of

volunteer services, or the failure, as determined by the department, to adequately restrict the access to children of a resident at a child care agency, shall subject the child care agency to immediate suspension of the agency's license by the department.

(5) Any person who is excluded based upon the results of the criminal history background review may appeal the exclusion to the department within ten (10) days of the mailing date of the notice of such exclusion to the subject person.

(6) If timely appealed, the department shall provide an administrative hearing pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3, in which the appellant may challenge the accuracy of the report, and may challenge the failure to grant an exception to the exclusion required by this subsection if a rule for such purpose is promulgated by the department pursuant to subsection (e).

(7) The appellant may not collaterally attack the factual basis of an underlying conviction except to show that he/she is not the person identified on the record. Further, except to show that he/she is not the person identified on the record, the appellant may not collaterally attack or litigate the facts which are the basis of a reported pending criminal charge except to show that such charge was, or, since the report was generated, has been, dismissed, nolle or has resulted in an acquittal.

(e) The department may by rule promulgate standards of review for the purpose of considering exemptions from the criminal background exclusion established by this section.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the exclusion of any individual from providing care for, from being licensed, approved or certified for the care of children pursuant to this part or from having access to a child in a child caring situation if the discovery of a criminal or juvenile proceeding background is discovered and verified in any manner other than through a procedure established pursuant to this section. All procedures, rules, and appeal processes established pursuant to this section for the protection of children and the due process rights of excluded individuals shall also be applicable to such individuals.

(g) It is unlawful for any person to falsify any information required on the disclosure form required by this section. A person who knowingly fails to disclose on the disclosure form required information or who knowingly discloses false information or who knowingly assists another to do so shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 30.

37-5-512. Abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse.

(a)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 71-3-503 or § 37-5-503, the Department of Children's Services shall have the authority and responsibility to fully investigate, in accordance with the provisions of Title 37, Chapter 1, Parts 1, 4 and 6, any allegation of abuse, neglect or sexual abuse which it receives regarding any child or children in the care of, or subject to the supervision, instruction or treatment of, any public or private

entity or any person, whether or not such entity or person is subject to licensure or approval pursuant to this part or Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, or Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 10.

(2) The Departments of Education and Human Services shall report all allegations of abuse or neglect in any child care agency or child care program which they may license, approve, or certify immediately to the Department of Children's Services for investigation and shall cooperate with the Department of Children's Services in any investigations of abuse or neglect involving any such agency or program. If the Department of Children's Services receives a report of abuse or neglect in any child care program certified by the Department of Education or a child care agency licensed by the Department of Human Services, it shall immediately notify the appropriate department of its investigation.

(3)(A) The Departments of Children's Services, Education and Human Services shall utilize any information obtained in the course of such investigations in the determination of whether appropriate care is being provided to children which may be in the care of any child care agency or child care program which the Departments of Children's Services, Education or Human Services license, approve or certify.

(B) For purposes related to that determination and any appropriate licensing or approval action, the Departments of Education and Human Services shall be permitted access to the Department of Children's Services' records; provided, however, that any information contained in any record of the Departments of Education's or Human Services' or records relating to the investigation of the report of harm by the Department of Children's Services shall be confidential and shall be released:

(i) Only in the proceedings concerning any certification, licensing or approval action or injunctive action by the Departments of Education or Human Services permitted by Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 10, or Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5; or

(ii) As otherwise permitted by the restrictions and conditions for the release of confidential records of the Department of Children's Services pursuant to Title 4 and Title 37, chapter 1, Parts 4 or 6; or

(iii) As otherwise permitted by the Department of Children's Services' regulations concerning procedures for release of information of validated perpetrators of child abuse. For purposes of this subdivision (B)(iii), the rules of the Department of Children's Services concerning release procedures for due process purposes shall apply to the release procedures of the Departments of Education and Human Services regarding perpetrators of child abuse validated by the Department of Children's Services. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit the release of the name or identifying information of any person reporting child abuse or neglect under Title 37, Chapter 1, Parts 4 or 6.

(iv) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, including any provisions related to expunction of records under Title 40, the limited release of confidential records pursuant to this section shall not alter the confidential character of such records, which shall be maintained, as necessary, to protect children.

(3) In the conduct of such investigations involving the alleged abuse or neglect of any child or in the evaluation of the appropriateness of any child care program or child care agency or the appropriateness of the care provided by any person, the Departments of Children's Services, Education and Human Services shall be granted access to the records of children in the care of the person or entity and to all personnel files of the director and employees of the person or entity and to all records of the person or entity. They shall be allowed to inspect all the premises in which children are kept or cared for and shall be allowed to interview any and all children in the care of such person or entity if the Departments of Children's Services, Education or Human Services determine that it is necessary to do so.

(b) If admission to the places, facilities or homes of the entities or persons involved in the care, supervision, instruction or treatment of the child is denied or delayed for any reason, the chancery, circuit or juvenile court of the county where the entity or person is located shall, upon cause shown by the Department of Children's Services in investigations of abuse or neglect or sexual abuse involving any person or entity or in any of its licensing or approval activities, or upon cause shown by the Departments of Education or Human Services in any certification, licensing or approval activities, immediately, by ex parte order, direct the persons in charge of such places, facilities or any persons having responsibility for the care, supervision, instruction or treatment, of the child or children to allow entrance for the review of records, inspection of the premises, and to permit any interviews with or examinations of the children as permitted pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 1, this part, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 10, or Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5.

(c)(1) If the Departments of Children's Services, Education or Human Services determine at any time that any person employed or associated in any manner with any person or entity, or any person providing care, supervision, instruction or treatment, of children has, at any time, abused, neglected or sexually abused a child, the department with certification, licensing or approval authority may take certificate or licensing action to prevent any child care program or child care agency certified, licensed or approved by it from continuing to provide care for children if such program or agency fails or refuses to take appropriate or timely action to prevent future abuse, neglect or sexual abuse by that person.

(2) If the entity or person is subject to certification by the Department of Education pursuant to Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 10, or is subject to licensure or approval by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, those departments may, in addition to any certificate, licensing or approval action, bring an action in the chancery, circuit or juvenile court of the county where the abuse, neglect or sexual abuse occurred or where the person resides to enjoin the entity found to have failed to protect the child or children

from abuse, neglect or sexual abuse or the person who, at anytime, abused, neglected or sexually abused a child or children, from continuing currently, or in the future, to provide care, supervision, instruction or treatment for children on a full or part-time basis, or to enjoin the person who perpetrated the abuse or neglect from being associated in any manner with any entities or persons providing care, supervision, instruction or treatment for children.

(3) If the Department of Children's Services determines at any time that any person employed or associated in any manner with an entity or person, or any person individually, providing care, supervision, instruction or treatment of children, has at any time abused, neglected or sexually abused a child, the Department of Children's Services may bring an action for injunctive relief as permitted by subdivision (2), whether or not the entity or person is subject to certification, licensure or approval by the Departments of Children's Services, Education or Human Services.

(4) In order to facilitate the protection of children, the Departments of Children's Services, Education and Human Services are specifically authorized to enter into inter-agency agreements for cooperative arrangements in any investigations or litigation authorized by this part.

SECTION 31.

37-5-513. Inspection of persons or entities providing child care.

(a) It is the duty of the department, through its duly authorized agents, to inspect at regular intervals, without previous notice, all child care agencies or suspected child care agencies, as defined in § 37-5-501.

(b)(1) The department is given the right of entrance, privilege of inspection, access to accounts, records, and information regarding the whereabouts of children under care for the purpose of determining the kind and quality of the care provided to the children and to obtain a proper basis for its decisions and recommendations.

(2) If refused entrance for inspection of a licensed, approved or suspected child care agency, the chancery or circuit court of the county where the licensed, approved or suspected child care agency may be located may issue an immediate ex parte order permitting the department's inspection upon a showing of probable cause, and the court may direct any law enforcement officer to aid the department in executing such order and inspection. Refusal by the child care agency to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.

(c) Any violation of the rights given in this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 32.

37-5-514. Violations of licensing regulations; probation, suspension, denial and revocation of licenses; appeal procedures.

(a) If any complaint is made to the department concerning any alleged violation of the laws or regulations governing a child care agency, the department shall investigate such complaint and shall take such action as it deems necessary to protect the children in the care of such agency.

(b)(1) If, during the licensing period, the department determines that a child care agency is not in compliance with the laws or regulations governing its operation, and if after reasonable written notice to the agency of the violation, the department determines that the violation remains uncorrected, the department may place the licensed agency on probation for a definite period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days as determined by the department, and the department shall require the posting by the agency of the notice of probation. The department shall provide the agency a written basis describing the violation of the licensing rules that support the basis for the probationary status.

(2)(A) If placed on probation, the agency shall immediately post a copy of the probation notice, together with a list provided by the department of the violations which were the basis for the probation, in a conspicuous place as directed by the department and with the agency's license, and the agency shall immediately notify in writing the custodians of each of the children in its care of the agency's status, the basis for the probation and of the agency's right to an informal review of the probationary status.

(B) If the agency requests an informal review within two (2) business days of the imposition of probation, either verbally or in writing to the department's licensing staff which imposed the probation, the department shall informally review the probationary status by a department licensing staff person or other designee who was not involved in the decision to impose the probation. The agency may submit any written or oral statements as argument to such staff person or designee within five (5) business days of the imposition of the probation. Written and oral statements may be received by any available electronic means. The licensing staff person or designee shall render a decision in writing upholding, modifying or lifting the probationary status within seven (7) business days of the imposition of the probation.

(3) If the licensing staff person or designee did not lift the probation under subdivision (B), the agency may also appeal such action in writing to the commissioner within five (5) business days of the receipt of the notice of the licensing staff person or designee's decision regarding the agency's probationary status as determined in subdivision (B). If timely appealed, the department shall conduct an administrative hearing pursuant to the contested case provisions of §§ 4-5-301 et seq. concerning the department's action within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the appeal and shall render a decision in writing within seven (7) business days following conclusion of the hearing. The hearing officer may uphold, modify or lift the probation.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall be discretionary with the department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any licensing action, to suspend, deny or revoke a license of a child care agency.

(c)(1) If the department determines that any applicant for a temporary license or for the renewal of an existing license has failed to attain, or an existing licensee has failed to maintain, compliance with licensing laws or regulations after reasonable notice of such failure and a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate compliance with licensing laws or regulations, the department may deny the application for the new or renewed license or may revoke the existing license; provided, however, the department at any time may deny a temporary license if the applicant fails to meet the initial requirements for its issuance; and, provided, further, if the department determines that repeated or serious violations of licensing laws or regulations warrant the denial or revocation of the license, then, notwithstanding any provisions of § 4-5-320 or this subsection to the contrary, the department may seek denial or revocation of the license regardless of the licensee's demonstration of compliance either before or after the notice of denial of the application or after notice of the revocation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 4-5-320, the notice of denial or revocation may be served personally by an authorized representative of the department who shall verify service of the notice by affidavit, or the notice may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(3) If application for the temporary or annual license is denied or if an existing license is revoked, the applicant may appeal the denial or revocation by requesting in writing to the department a hearing before the Child Care Agency board of review within ten (10) days of the personal delivery or mailing date of the notice of denial or revocation. Failure to timely appeal shall result in the expiration of any existing license immediately upon the expiration of the time for appeal.

(4) The hearing upon the denial or revocation shall be heard by the board of review within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the notice of denial or revocation; provided, however, for good cause as stated in an order entered on the record, the board or the administrative law judge or hearing officer may continue the hearing. In order to protect the children in the care of the agency from any risk to their health, safety and welfare, the board or administrative law judge or hearing officer shall re-set the hearing at the earliest date that circumstances permit.

(5)(A) If timely appeal is made, pending the hearing upon the denial or revocation, the child care agency may continue to operate pending the decision of the board of review unless the license is summarily suspended as provided in subsection (d).

(B) The board, as part of its decision regarding the status of the applicant's application for a license or the licensee's license, may direct that the child care agency be allowed to operate on a probationary or conditional status, or may grant or continue the license with any restrictions or conditions on the agency's authority to provide care.

(d)(1) Subject to the following provisions of this subsection, if the department determines at any time that the health, safety or welfare of the children in care of

the child care agency imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of the license may be ordered by the department pending any further proceedings for revocation, denial or other action. If the department determines that revocation or denial of the license is warranted following suspension, those proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined as authorized by this part.

(2) The department shall set forth with specificity in its order the legal and factual basis for its decision stating therein the specific laws or regulations which were violated by the agency, and shall state with specificity in the order the reasons that the issuance of the order of summary suspension is necessary to adequately protect the health, safety or welfare of children in the care of the child care agency. Summary suspension may be ordered in circumstances that have resulted in death, injury or harm to a child or which have posed or threatened to pose a serious and immediate threat of harm or injury to a child based upon the intentional or negligent failure to comply with licensing laws or regulations.

(3) In issuing an order of summary suspension of a license the department shall use, at a minimum, the following procedures:

(A) The department shall proceed with the summary suspension of the agency's license and shall notify the licensee of the opportunity for an informal hearing within three (3) business days of the issuance of the order of summary suspension before an administrative law judge or before a hearing officer who is not an employee of the department.

(B) The notice provided to the licensee may be provided by any reasonable means and, consistent with the provisions of subdivision (2), shall inform the licensee of the reasons for the action or intended action by the department and of the opportunity for an informal hearing as permitted by subdivision (C).

(C) The informal hearing described by this subdivision shall not be required to be held under the contested case provisions of § 4-5-301 et seq. The hearing is intended to provide an informal, reasonable opportunity for the licensee to present to the hearing official the licensee's version of the circumstances leading to the suspension order. The sole issues to be considered are whether the public health, safety or welfare imperatively required emergency action by the department and what, if any, corrective measures have been taken by the child care agency following the violation of licensing laws or regulations and prior to the issuance of the order of summary suspension that eliminate the danger to the health, safety or welfare of the children in the care of the agency. The hearing official may lift, modify or continue the order of summary suspension.

(D) Subsequent to the hearing on the summary suspension, the department may proceed with revocation or denial of the license or other action as authorized by this part, regardless of the decision concerning summary suspension of the license.

(4) The department shall by rule establish any further necessary criteria which it determines are required for the determination of circumstances that warrant imposition of the summary suspension order and any other necessary procedures for implementation of the summary suspension process.

(5) If the conditions existing in the child care agency present an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of the children in care, the department may also seek a temporary restraining order from the chancery or circuit court of the county in which the child care agency is located seeking immediate closure of the agency to prevent further harm or threat of harm to the children in care, or immediate restraint against any violations of the licensing laws or regulations which are harming or which threaten harm to the children in care. The department may seek any further injunctive relief as permitted by law in order to protect children from the violations, or threatened violations of the licensing laws or regulations. The use of injunctive relief as provided by this subdivision may be used as an alternative, or supplementary measure, to the issuance of an order of summary suspension or any other administrative proceeding.

(e)(1) In determining whether to deny, revoke or summarily suspend a license, the department may choose to deny, revoke or suspend only certain authority of the licensee to operate and may permit the licensee to continue operation, but may restrict or modify the licensee's authority to provide certain services or perform certain functions, including, but not limited to: transportation or food service, enrollment of children at the agency, the agency's hours of operation, the agency's use of certain parts of the agency's physical facilities or any other function of the child care agency which the department determines should be restricted or modified to protect the health, safety or welfare of the children. The board of review, in considering the actions to be taken regarding the license, may likewise restrict a license or place whatever conditions on the license and the licensee it deems appropriate for the protection of children in the care of the agency.

(2) The actions by the department or the board authorized by this subsection may be appealed as otherwise provided in this part for any denial, revocation or suspension.

(f)(1) When an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked, on one (1) occasion, the child care agency may not reapply for a license for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of the denial or revocation order if not appealed, or, if appealed, from the effective date of the board's or reviewing court's order.

(2) If application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked, on two (2) occasions, the child care agency may not reapply for a license for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of the denial or revocation if not appealed or, if appealed, from the effective date of the board's or reviewing court's order.

(3) If an application for a license has been denied, or a license has been revoked on three (3) occasions, the agency shall not receive another license for the care of children.

(4) No person who served as full or part owner or as director or as a member of the management of a child care agency shall receive a license to operate a child care agency if that person participated in such capacity in a child care agency which has been denied a license, or which had a license revoked, on three (3) occasions.

(5)(A) The time restrictions of subdivisions (1) and (2) may be waived by the board of review in the hearing in which the denial or revocation is sustained, or, if requested by the former licensee in writing to the commissioner, in a separate subsequent hearing before the board of review or, in the discretion of the commissioner, upon review by the commissioner.

(B) The agency must show to the board's or the commissioner's satisfaction that the agency has corrected the deficiencies which led to the denial or revocation, and that the child care agency can demonstrate that it has the present and future ability, and is willing, to maintain compliance with licensing laws or regulations. The decision of the board or the commissioner shall be reduced to an order, which shall be a final order pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3, and may be appealed pursuant to § 4-5-322.

(C) No waiver may be granted for any permanent restriction that has been imposed pursuant to subdivision (3).

(g)(1) In conducting hearings before the board of review on the appeal of a denial or revocation of a license or for review of summary suspension orders, it is the legislative intent that such hearings be promptly determined consistent with the safety of the children in the care of the child care agency appealing the department's licensing action and with the due process rights of the license applicants or licensees.

(2) If, however, the Administrative Procedures Division of the Office of the Secretary of State certifies by letter to the recording secretary of the board of review that the division's contested case docket prevents the scheduling of a hearing on the appeal of a denial or revocation of a license before the board of review within the initial timeframes set forth in this part, then the department shall have authority to appoint a hearing officer from the department to conduct the proceedings before the board. The substitute hearing officer shall have all authority as an administrative law judge of the Department of State. The hearing may be continued by order of the board for the purpose of obtaining a substitute hearing officer.

(3) Hearings on summary suspension orders shall be heard by an administrative law judge from the Administrative Procedures Division of the Secretary of State's Office. The administrative law judge shall have authority, as otherwise permitted in this section, to enter orders binding on the department

resulting from show cause hearings involving summary suspension orders. If the Administrative Procedures Division of the Office of the Secretary of State informs the department that the division's contested case docket prevents the scheduling of a hearing on the issuance of a summary suspension order within the initial timeframes set forth in this part, the department may utilize a hearing officer from the department to conduct the show cause hearing.

(h) By July 1, 2000, any initial rules to implement the provisions of this section shall be by public necessity rules of the department; provided, however, any permanent rules shall be promulgated pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 33.

37-5-515. Board of review for licensing actions.

Actions by the Department of Children's Services to deny or revoke or to otherwise limit any license, except for the summary suspension of a license, shall be reviewed by the Child Care Agency Board of Review established pursuant to Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5.

SECTION 34.

37-5-516. Licensing standards committees.

(a)(1) The commissioner of the department shall appoint a standards committee composed of sixteen (16) citizens, four (4) from each grand division of the state, and four (4) at-large for the purpose of developing or reviewing standards and regulations for each class of child care agency defined in this part.

(b) For any new class of child care agency as defined in this part, the standards committee shall develop and recommend to the commissioner the standards and regulations for that new class of child care agency. The standards and regulations of each existing class of child care agency shall be reviewed by a standards committee beginning every four (4) years following the date of submission of its last recommendations or more frequently as the commissioner may direct.

(c) The standards committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the commissioner in recommending any initial standards or regulations or any changes to the existing standards or regulations of any class of child care agency.

(d) The committee shall cease to exist upon submitting its recommendations to the commissioner, but may be re-established by the commissioner at anytime to further review its recommendations or to consider additional standards or regulations or to consider revisions to the standards or regulations.

(e) In making appointments to the committee, the commissioner shall strive to ensure that at least one (1) person serving on the committee is sixty (60) years of age or older and that at least one (1) person serving on the committee is a member of a racial minority.

(f) The members of the committee shall not receive any compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their travel to and from the committee meetings and

for their meals and lodging in accordance with the state travel procedures and regulations.

SECTION 35.

37-5-517. Individual plans - Reports.

(a) An agency shall prepare a written plan for each child in foster care and each child placed in its care by voluntary agreement. Such plans shall be prepared at the time a child comes under the supervision of the agency. Such plan shall be subject to review by the Department of Children's Services. Failure to prepare such a plan shall be grounds for revocation of the agency's license.

(b) In its annual report to the Department of Children's Services pursuant to § 37-5-519, the agency shall include the number of children in foster care, the total number of children who have been in care during the year, the number of plans prepared, the number of children adopted, and the average length of the stay of the children.

SECTION 36.

37-5-518. Annual reports of child care agencies.

(a) Each child care agency shall make an annual report of its work to the department in such reasonable form as the department shall prescribe.

(b) The department shall prepare and supply to all child care agencies the necessary printed forms to record the requested information.

SECTION 37.

37-5-519. Annual report.

The department shall prepare a comprehensive annual report of the status of child care agencies within the state subject to its jurisdiction, accompanied by special comments and recommendations, and such reports shall be published at state expense for the information of the General Assembly and for distribution to interested persons.

SECTION 38. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-203, is amended by deleting subdivision (b)(11)(B) in its entirety and by re-designating subdivision (11) appropriately.

SECTION 39. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(k)(1) The board, through the State Department of Education, shall enforce standards for care of children in any before or after school child care programs operated pursuant to the provisions of § 49-2-203(b)(11); for child care provided by church affiliated schools as defined by § 49-50-801; for public school administered early childhood education programs; and for child care provided in federally regulated programs including Title I preschools, all school-administered Head Start and Even Start programs; and state approved Montessori school programs.

(2)(A) The board shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2, to establish standards for those programs described in subdivision (1).

(B) The regulations shall provide equivalent protection for the health, safety and welfare of children, and shall use the same criteria for development of such protection as are used by the Department of Human Services and which are set forth in § 71-3-502(a)(3). Although the standards and regulations need not be identical in all respects, the standards and regulations shall parallel, in a substantial manner, the child care standards and regulations promulgated by the Department of Human Services for child care agencies which that department licenses.

(3) Certificates of approval shall be issued pursuant to those regulations by the Commissioner of the Department of Education, pursuant to § 49-1-1001 et seq. to those child care programs which meet the standards as adopted by the board.

(4)(A) There is established a Child Care Advisory Council which shall advise the State Board of Education regarding the establishment of child care standards and regulations for child care programs subject to the board's jurisdiction and to act as a hearing tribunal for appeals from actions of the State Department of Education regarding the certificate of approval issued to child care programs.

(B)(i) The council shall consist of a director of a local school system, a representative of a private, church related school organization as defined in § 49-50-801, a representative from an institution of higher education with expertise in early childhood development, a parent of a child in a child care program, a coordinator of child care programs, a representative of the Department of Education, a representative from the Child Care Services staff of the Department of Human Services as designated by the State Board of Education and four (4) other members as may be designated by the Board of Education. The council shall fairly represent the racial and ethnic composition of the state. Members shall serve until replaced by the board. The representative of the Department of Education shall serve as chair of the council until the council elects a chair. The chair shall sign the orders of the council regarding certificate actions taken by the council.

(ii) The council shall elect a vice-chair who shall serve in the absence of the chair. If the chair resigns, is unable to perform the duties of the chairperson or is removed or the chair's term on the council expires, the Chairman of the State Board of Education shall appoint a new chair until the board can elect a chair. The vice-chair shall have authority to sign all orders of the council in the absence of the chair and for actions of the panels under subdivision (E)(iii).

(C) The members of the council shall serve without reimbursement except for their travel expenses as may be established by state travel regulations.

(D) The council shall act as an advisory council to the State Board of Education regarding the development of child care standards for child care programs subject to the board's jurisdiction and shall review the standards on a formal basis at least every four (4) years, but may be requested by the board to conduct such further reviews as may be necessary more frequently or to otherwise provide periodic advice to the board regarding child care programs subject to the board's jurisdiction.

(E)(i) The council shall act as a hearing tribunal for all actions of the Department of Education regarding the denial or revocation of a certificate of approval for the operation of a child care program under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education; provided, however, the council shall not hear issues regarding the summary suspension of a certificate of approval which shall be heard by a department hearing officer.

(ii) For purposes of acting as a hearing tribunal, a quorum for the hearing shall consist of a majority of the members of the council.

(iii) In order to complete the work of the council, the chair may appoint one or more panels of the council with a quorum of five (5) members, at least one (1) of whom shall be randomly selected at-large members selected by the chair. The chair of the council shall appoint the chair of the panel. The panel shall have complete authority to hear any case under the council's jurisdiction and shall have complete authority to enter any necessary orders concerning certificates actions conducted before the council. Any orders of the panel shall be signed by the chair of the panel, or by the council chair or vice-chair.

(F) Rules for its operation as a hearing tribunal shall be adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2.

(G) An existing member of the professional staff of the Department of Education shall serve as recording secretary of the council and shall assist in the arrangement of meetings of the council and the setting and processing of appeal hearings regarding certificates of approval for child care programs.

SECTION 40. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, is amended by adding Sections 41 through 49 as a new Part 10.

SECTION 41.

49-1-1001. Approval of certain child care programs by commissioner.

(a) The Commissioner of Education, acting through the commissioner's authorized agents and pursuant to regulations of the State Board of Education which are adopted pursuant to § 49-1-302(k), shall be responsible for inspecting and approving those child care programs subject to the state board's jurisdiction pursuant to § 49-1-302(k).

(b) The commissioner shall have authority to issue certificates of approval from the Department of Education for those child care programs which meet the child care standards of the board, and the commissioner shall be responsible for enforcing the board's standards for such programs.

SECTION 42.

49-1-1002. Definitions.

(a) "Care giver(s)", or "care provider(s)" mean the person(s) or entity(ies) directly responsible for providing for the supervision, protection and basic needs of the child;

(b) "Child or children" means a person or persons under the age of eighteen (18).

(c) "Child care" means, for purposes of this part, the provision of supervision, protection and, at a minimum, the basic needs of a child or children for three (3) or more hours a day, but less than twenty-four (24) hours a day. Care for a child of twenty-four (24) hours duration is "residential child care", which is licensed by the Department of Children's Services pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5; the Department of Human Services licenses "child care agencies" providing child care in "child care centers", "group child care homes" or "family child care homes" as defined in § 71-3-501;

(d) "Child care program" means any place or facility operated by any person or entity which provides child care for children in a before or after school-based program operated by a local Board of Education pursuant to § 49-2-203(b)(11), a public school administered early childhood education program, a church affiliated program operated pursuant to § 49-50-801, or a federally funded early childhood education program such as a Title I program, a school-administered Head Start or an Even Start program; and state-approved Montessori school programs.

(e) "Commissioner" means the chief administrative officer in charge of the Department of Education.

(f) "Department" means the Department of Education.

SECTION 43.

49-1-1003. Basis for approval; regulations; certificate application; temporary certificate; non-transferability of certificate; transfer of operation to circumvent approval laws or regulations; fees.

(a)(1) All persons or entities operating a child care program as defined in § 49-1-1002, must be certified by the Department of Education as provided by this part.

(2)(A) The State Board of Education shall have authority to issue regulations pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 2, for the issuance of certificates of approval of any persons or entities subject to any provisions of this part and enforcement of appropriate standards for the health, safety and welfare of children in their care.

(B) To the extent they are not inconsistent with the statutory provisions of this part, the regulations of the Department of Education which are in effect upon the effective date of this act shall remain in force and effect until modified by regulatory action of the department.

(3) The State Board of Education's regulations of child care programs shall be developed and the continued approval of the certification status of a child care program shall be based upon the following criteria:

(A) The safety, welfare and best interests of the children in the care of the program;

(B) The capability, training and character of the persons providing or supervising the care to the children;

(C) The quality of the methods of care and instruction provided for the children;

(D) The suitability of the facilities provided for the care of the children; and

(E) The adequacy of the methods of administration and the management of the child care program, the program's personnel policies, and the financing of the program.

(b)(1) The department shall assist applicants or certificate holders in meeting the child care standards of the department unless the circumstances demonstrate that further assistance is not compatible with the continued safety, health or welfare of the children in the program's care and that disapproval of the program's certificate is warranted.

(2) If a certificate holder is denied the renewal of a certificate, or if such certificate is revoked, or if any applicant for a certificate cannot meet the standards, then the department shall offer reasonable assistance to the parents, guardians or custodians of the child in the planning for the placement of such children in other child care programs, in licensed child care agencies or in other suitable care.

(c) Application for a certificate to operate a child care program shall be made in writing to the department in such manner as the department determines.

(d)(1) If the department determines that the applicant has presented satisfactory evidence that the facility which is proposed for the care of children has received fire safety and environmental safety approval, that the applicant and the personnel who will care for the children are capable in all substantial respects to care for the children and that the applicant has the ability and intent to comply with the certificate of approval law and regulations, the department shall issue a temporary certificate of approval to the applicant.

(2)(A) The purpose of the temporary certificate is to permit the certificate applicant to demonstrate to the department that it has complied with all approval laws and regulations applicable to its classification prior to issuance of an initial annual certificate of approval.

(B) If the department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted certificate which limits the program's authority in one or more areas of operation.

(C) Within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the temporary certificate, the department shall determine if the applicant has complied with all regulations governing the classification of child care program for which the application was made.

(3) The department may extend the temporary certificate for a period of forty-five (45) days if the department determines that the applicant has clearly demonstrated that it intends to, and will be able to, achieve compliance with all approval laws and regulations within the forty-five (45) days extension period and if the safety and welfare of the children in care of the applicant are not compromised by such extension.

(4)(A)(i) If the department determines that the applicant for any certificate of approval has complied with all licensing regulations for the classification of child care program for which application was made, the department shall issue an annual certificate of approval.

(ii) If the department determines that the conditions of the applicant's facility, its methods of care or other circumstances warrant, it may issue a restricted certificate which limits the agency's authority in one or more areas of operation.

(B) The certificate holder shall post the certificate in a clearly visible location as determined by the department so the parents or other persons visiting the program can readily view the certificate and all of the information on the certificate.

(C)(i) The certificate shall describe the ownership or controlling entity of the child care program, the person who is charged with the day-to-day management of the child care program, and, if the program is owned by a person other than the director, or if the

program is under the ownership or direction or control of any person or entity who is not also the on-site director or manager of the program, the certificate shall also state the corporate or other name of the controlling person or entity, its address and telephone number where the parents, guardians or custodians may have contact regarding the program's operations.

(ii) If the child care program is operated by a public school or a private non-profit entity and is subject to the control or direction of a school board, or board of directors or other oversight authority, the certificate shall list the name, address and telephone number of the administrative officer in charge of the program or the administrative officer's designee or, if the child care program is not operated by a school system, the chairman of the board or other chief executive officer of such controlling body.

(5) In granting any certificate, the department may limit the total number of children who may be enrolled in the program regardless of the program's physical capacity or the size of its staff.

(6) If the department fails to issue or deny an annual certificate or extend the temporary certificate within ninety (90) days of the granting of the temporary certificate, the temporary certificate shall continue in effect, unless suspended, as provided in § 49-1-1007, until such determination is made. If an annual certificate of approval is denied following the issuance of a temporary certificate of approval, and if a timely appeal is made of the denial of the annual certificate of approval, the temporary certificate of approval shall remain in effect, unless suspended, until the advisory council renders a decision regarding the denial of the annual certificate of approval.

(7) If a temporary certificate is denied, or if an annual certificate is denied or restricted, the applicant may appeal the denial or restriction as provided in § 49-1-1007.

(e)(1) Except as provided herein, no certificate for a child care program shall be transferable, and the transfer by sale or lease, or in any other manner, of the operation of the program to any other person or entity shall void the existing certificate immediately and any pending appeal involving the status of the certificate and the program shall be required to close immediately. If the transferee has made application for, and is granted, a temporary certificate, the program may continue operation under the direction of the new certificate holder. The new certificate holder in such circumstances may not be the transferor or any person or entity acting on behalf of the transferor.

(2) If the department determines that any person or entity has transferred nominal control of a program to any persons or entities who are determined by the department to be acting on behalf of the purported transferor in order to circumvent a history of violations of the certificate law or regulations or to otherwise attempt to circumvent the certificate law or regulations or any prior certificate actions instituted by the department, the department may deny the

issuance of any certificate to the applicant. The denial of the certificate may be appealed as provided in § 49-1-1007.

(3)(A) The certificate of any program shall not be voided nor shall any pending appeal be voided pursuant to this subsection solely for the reason that the program is subject to judicial orders directing the transfer of control or management of a child care program or its certificate to any receiver, trustee, administrator or executor of an estate, or any similarly situated person or entity.

(B) If the current certificate holder dies, and provided that no certificate violations require the suspension, denial or revocation of the agency's certificate, the department may grant family members of the certificate holder, or administrators or executors of the certificate holder, a temporary certificate to continue operation for a period of ninety (90) days. At the end of such period, the department shall determine whether an annual or extended certificate should be granted to a new certificate holder as otherwise provided in this section.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the department from taking any regulatory or judicial action as may be required pursuant to the certificate laws and regulations that may be necessary to protect the children in the care of such program.

(f)(1) Following the expiration of a least one (1) annual certificate, the department may issue an extended certificate to a certificate holder who seeks renewal of an existing certificate if the department determines that the certificate holder has demonstrated that its methods of child care and its adherence to laws and regulations governing certificates for child care programs are clearly appropriate to justify an extended certificate period. An extended certificate of approval may not be granted as the first certificate immediately following any temporary certificate of approval.

(2) The department may by rule establish any criteria for the issuance of an extended certificate; provided, however, no extended certificate shall exceed three (3) years duration.

(3) At the time renewal of the certificate is sought, or at any other time during the certificate period, the department may reduce the period of the extended certificate to a shorter period if it determines that the certificate holder has failed to demonstrate continued adherence to the requirements for the issuance of the extended certificate. The certificate holder may appeal such action as provided in § 49-1-1007.

(4) The issuance of an extended certificate shall not be construed in any manner to prevent the department from suspending or revoking the certificate, or placing a child care program on probation, if it determines that such action is appropriate.

SECTION 44.

49-1-1004. Injunctions against unapproved operations.

(a) The department may, in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee governing injunctions, maintain an action in the name of the State of Tennessee to enjoin any person, partnership, association, corporation or other entity from establishing, conducting, managing or operating any place or facility providing services to children without having a certificate as required by law, or from continuing to operate any such place or facility following suspension of a certificate or following the effective date of the denial or revocation of a certificate.

(b) In charging any defendant in a complaint for such injunction, it shall be sufficient to charge that such defendant did, upon a certain day and in a certain county, establish, conduct, manage or operate a place, home or facility of any kind which is a child care program as defined in this part or to charge that the defendant is about to do so without having in effect a certificate as required by law, or that the defendant continues to operate any such place or facility following suspension of a certificate, or following the effective date of the denial or revocation of a certificate, without averring any further or more particular facts concerning the case. Refusal to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.

SECTION 45.

49-1-1005. Criminal violations.

(a) Any person or entity, operating a child care program, as defined in § 49-1-1001, without being certified by the department or who continues to operate such program while a suspension of the certificate is in effect, or who operates a child care program following the effective date of a denial or revocation of a certificate, commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(b) Each day of operation without an effective certificate constitutes a separate offense.

(c)(1) It is unlawful for any person who is an operator, certificate holder or employee of a child care program to make any statement, whether written or verbal, knowing such statement is false, including, but not limited to, statements regarding:

(A) the number of children in the child care program;

(B) the area of the child care program used for child care; or

(C) the credentials, licensure or qualification of any care giver, employee, substitute or volunteer of the child care program, when such statement is made to a parent or guardian of a child in the care of such program, to any state or local official having jurisdiction over such program, or to any law enforcement officer.

(2) In order for subdivision (1) to apply, the falsity of the statement must place at risk the health or safety of a child in the care of the child care program.

(3) A violation of subdivision (1) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) This subsection includes statements made in any child care program certificate application that misrepresents or conceals a material fact that would have resulted in the certificate being denied.

(5) In addition to any punishment authorized under this subsection, the department may also take any certificate action authorized under this part.

SECTION 46.

49-1-1006. Inspection of persons or entities providing child care.

(a) It is the duty of the department, through its duly authorized agents, to inspect at regular intervals, without previous notice, all child care programs or suspected child care programs, as defined in § 49-1-1002.

(b)(1) The department is given the right of entrance, privilege of inspection, access to accounts, records and information regarding the whereabouts of children under care for the purpose of determining the kind and quality of the care provided to the children and to obtain a proper basis for its decisions and recommendations.

(2) If refused entrance for inspection of a certified or suspected child care program, the chancery or circuit court of the county where the approved or suspected child care program may be located may issue an immediate ex parte order permitting the department's inspection upon a showing of probable cause, and the court may direct any law enforcement officer to aid the department in executing such order and inspection. Refusal to obey the inspection order may be punished as contempt.

(3) Except where court orders prohibit or otherwise limit access, parents or other caretakers of children in the care of a child care program certified pursuant to this part shall be permitted to visit and inspect the facilities and observe the methods for the care of their children at any time during which the children are in the care of the program and, except those records of other children and their parents or caretakers, shall further be permitted to inspect any records of the program which are not privileged, or are not otherwise confidential, as provided by law or regulation, and the parents' or caretakers' access for these purposes shall not be purposely denied by the program.

(c) Any violation of the rights given in this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 47.

49-1-1007. Violations of certificate regulations; probation; civil penalties, suspension, denial, and revocation of certificates; appeal procedures.

(a) If any complaint is made to the department concerning any alleged violation of the laws or regulations governing a child care program, the department shall

investigate such complaint and shall take such action as it deems necessary to protect the children in the care of such program.

(b)(1) If, during the certificate period, the department determines that a child care program is not in compliance with the laws or regulations governing its operation, and if after reasonable written notice to the program of the violation, the department determines that the violation remains uncorrected, the department may place the certified program on probation for a definite period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days as determined by the department, and the department shall require the posting by the program of the notice of probation. The department shall provide the program a written basis describing the violation of the certificate rules that support the basis for the probationary status.

(2)(A) If placed on probation, the program shall immediately post a copy of the probation notice, together with a list provided by the department of the violations which were the basis for the probation, in a conspicuous place as directed by the department and with the program's certificate, and the program shall immediately notify in writing the custodians of each of the children in its care of the program's status, the basis for the probation and of the program's right to an informal review of the probationary status.

(B) If the program requests an informal review within two (2) business days of the imposition of probation, either verbally or in writing to the department's program staff which imposed the probation, the department shall informally review the probationary status by a child care program staff person or other designee who was not involved in the decision to impose the probation. The program may submit any written or oral statements as argument to the child care program staff person or designee within five (5) business days of the imposition of the probation. Written and oral statements may be received by any available electronic means. The child care program staff person or designee shall render a decision in writing upholding, modifying or lifting the probationary status within seven (7) business days of the imposition of the probation.

(3) If the child care program staff person or designee did not lift the probation under subdivision (B), the program may also appeal such action in writing to the commissioner within five (5) business days of the receipt of the notice of the child care program staff or designee's decision regarding the program's probationary status as determined in subdivision (B). If timely appealed, the department shall conduct an administrative hearing pursuant to the contested case provisions of §§ 4-5-301 et seq. concerning the department's action within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the appeal and shall render a decision in writing within seven (7) business days following conclusion of the hearing. The hearing officer may uphold, modify or lift the probation.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall be discretionary with the department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any certificate action, to impose a civil penalty or to suspend, deny or revoke a certificate of a child care program.

(c)(1) If the department determines that there exists any violation with respect to any person or entity required to be approved pursuant to this part, the department may assess a civil penalty against such person or entity for each separate violation of a statute, rule or order pertaining to such person or entity in an amount ranging from fifty dollars (\$50.00) for minor violations up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for major violations or violations resulting in death or injury to a child as defined in the rules of the department. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate violation.

(2) The department shall by rule establish a graduated schedule of civil penalties designating the minimum and maximum civil penalties that may be assessed pursuant to this subsection. In developing the graduated civil penalty procedure, the following factors may be considered:

(A) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;

(B) The circumstances leading to the violation and the program's history of violations;

(C) The extent of deviation from the statutes, rules or orders governing the operation of the child care program; the severity of the violation, including specifically the level of risk of harm to the children in care of the person or entity caused by the violation; and the penalty may be further classified based upon whether the violation resulted in the issuance of an order of summary suspension, denial or revocation of the certificate of the program and whether death or injury of a child occurred as a result of violation;

(D) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of noncompliance;

(E) The program's efforts to comply with the licensing requirements; and

(F) The interest of the public.

(3) The department shall assess the civil penalty in an order which states the reasons for the assessment of the civil penalty, the factors used to determine its assessment and the amount of the penalty.

(4) The order may be served on the certificate holder personally by an authorized agent of the department who shall complete an affidavit of service, or the order may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(5) The certificate holder may appeal the penalty to the Child Care Advisory Council by filing a request for an appeal in writing with the commissioner within ten (10) days of the service of the order.

(6)(A) Civil penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection shall become final ten (10) days after the date an order of assessment is served if not

timely appealed, or, if timely appealed, within seven (7) days following entry of the council's order unless the council's order is stayed.

(B) If the violator fails to pay an assessment when it becomes final, the department may apply to the chancery court for a judgment and seek execution of such judgment.

(C) Jurisdiction for recovery of such penalties shall be in the Chancery Court of Davidson County.

(7) All sums recovered pursuant to this subsection shall be paid into the state treasury, but shall be earmarked to be used by the department exclusively to improve child care quality in this state by funding activities which include, but are not limited to, child care provider training activities, but excluding any costs associated with conducting criminal background checks.

(8) The provisions of this subsection relative to civil penalties shall be discretionary with the department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any certificate action to suspend, deny or revoke a certificate of a child care program. Civil penalties may also be imposed in conjunction with the probation, suspension, denial or revocation of certificate.

(d)(1) If the department determines that any applicant for a conditional certificate or for the renewal of an existing certificate has failed to attain, or an existing certificate holder has failed to maintain, compliance with certificate laws or regulations after reasonable notice of such failure and a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate compliance with certificate laws or regulations, the department may deny the application for the new or renewed certificate or may revoke the existing certificate; provided, however, the department at any time may deny a conditional certificate if the applicant fails to meet the initial requirements for its issuance; and, provided, further, if the department determines that repeated or serious violations of certificate laws or regulations warrant the denial or revocation of the certificate, then, notwithstanding any provisions of § 4-5-320 or this subsection to the contrary, the department may seek denial or revocation of the certificate regardless of the program's demonstration of compliance either before or after the notice of denial of the application or after notice of the revocation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 4-5-320, the notice of denial or revocation may be served personally by an authorized representative of the department who shall verify service of the notice by affidavit, or the notice may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(3) If application for the temporary, annual, or extended certificate is denied or if an existing certificate is revoked, the applicant may appeal the denial or revocation by requesting in writing to the department a hearing before the Child Care Advisory Council within ten (10) days of the personal delivery or mailing date of the notice of denial or revocation. Failure to timely appeal shall result in the expiration of any existing certificate immediately upon the expiration of the time for appeal.

(4) The hearing upon the denial or revocation shall be heard by the Child Care Advisory Council within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the notice of denial or revocation; provided, however, for good cause as stated in an order entered on the record, the council or the administrative law judge may continue the hearing. In order to protect the children in the care of the program from any risk to their health, safety and welfare, the council or administrative law judge shall re-set the hearing at the earliest date that circumstances permit.

(5)(A) If timely appeal is made, pending the hearing upon the denial or revocation, the child care program may continue to operate pending the decision of the council unless the certificate is summarily suspended as provided in subsection (e).

(B) The council, as part of its decision regarding the status of the applicant's application for a certificate or the certificate holder's certificate, may direct that the child care program be allowed to operate on a probationary or conditional status, or may grant or continue the certificate with any restrictions or conditions on the program's authority to provide care.

(e)(1) Subject to the following provisions of this subsection, if the department determines at anytime that the health, safety or welfare of the children in care of the child care program imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of the certificate may be ordered by the department pending any further proceedings for revocation, denial or other action. If the department determines that revocation or denial of the certificate is warranted following suspension, those proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined as authorized by this part.

(2) The department shall set forth with specificity in its order the legal and factual basis for its decision stating therein the specific laws or regulations which were violated by the program, and shall state with specificity in the order the reasons that the issuance of the order of summary suspension is necessary to adequately protect the health, safety or welfare of children in the care of the child care program. Summary suspension may be ordered in circumstances that have resulted in death, injury or harm to a child or which have posed or threatened to pose a serious and immediate threat of harm or injury to a child based upon the intentional or negligent failure to comply with licensing laws or regulations.

(3) In issuing an order of summary suspension of a certificate the department shall use, at a minimum, the following procedures:

(A) The department shall proceed with the summary suspension of the program's certificate and shall notify the certificate holder of the opportunity for an informal hearing within three (3) business days of the issuance of the order of summary suspension before the department.

(B) The notice provided to the certificate holder may be provided by any reasonable means and, consistent with the provisions of subdivision (2), shall inform the certificate holder of the reasons for the

action or intended action by the department and of the opportunity for an informal hearing as permitted by subdivision (C).

(C) The informal hearing described by this subdivision shall not be required to be held under the contested case provisions of §§ 4-5-301 et seq. The hearing is intended to provide an informal, reasonable opportunity for the certificate holder to present to the hearing official the certificate holder's version of the circumstances leading to the suspension order. The sole issues to be considered are whether the public health, safety or welfare imperatively required emergency action by the department and what, if any, corrective measures have been taken by the child care agency following the violation of licensing laws or regulations and prior to the issuance of the order of summary suspension that eliminate the danger to the health, safety or welfare of the children in the care of the agency. The hearing official may lift, modify or continue the order of summary suspension.

(D) Subsequent to the hearing on the summary suspension, the department may proceed with revocation or denial of the certificate or other action as authorized by this part, regardless of the decision concerning summary suspension of the certificate.

(4) The department shall by rule establish any further necessary criteria which it determines are required for the determination of circumstances that warrant imposition of the summary suspension order and any other necessary procedures for implementation of the summary suspension process.

(5) If the conditions existing in the child care program present an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of the children in care, the department may also seek a temporary restraining order from the chancery or circuit court of the county in which the child care program is located seeking immediate closure of the program to prevent further harm or threat of harm to the children in care, or immediate restraint against any violations of the certificate laws or regulations which are harming or which threaten harm to the children in care. The department may seek any further injunctive relief as permitted by law in order to protect children from the violations, or threatened violations of the certificate laws or regulations. The use of injunctive relief as provided by this subdivision may be used as an alternative, or supplementary measure, to the issuance of an order of summary suspension or any other administrative proceeding.

(f)(1) In determining whether to deny, revoke or summarily suspend a certificate, the department may choose to deny, revoke or suspend only certain authority of the certificate holder to operate and may permit the certificate holder to continue operation, but may restrict or modify the certificate holder's authority to provide certain services or perform certain functions, including, but not limited to: transportation or food service, enrollment of children at the program, the program's hours of operation, the program's use of certain parts of the program's physical facilities or any other function of the child care program which the department determines should be restricted or modified to protect the health, safety or welfare of the children. The Child Care Advisory Council, in considering

the actions to be taken regarding the certificate, may likewise restrict a certificate or place whatever conditions on the certificate and the certificate holder it deems appropriate for the protection of children in the care of the program.

(2) The actions by the department or the council authorized by this subsection may be appealed as otherwise provided in this part for any denial, revocation or suspension.

(g)(1) When an application for a certificate has been denied, or a certificate has been revoked, on one (1) occasion, the child care program may not reapply for a certificate for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of the denial or revocation order if not appealed, or, if appealed, from the effective date of the council's or reviewing court's order.

(2) If application for a certificate has been denied, or a certificate has been revoked, on two (2) occasions, the child care program may not reapply for a certificate for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of the denial or revocation if not appealed or, if appealed, from the effective date of the council's or reviewing court's order.

(3) If an application for a certificate has been denied, or a certificate has been revoked on three (3) occasions, the child care program shall not receive another certificate for the care of children.

(4) No person who served as full or part owner or as director or as a member of the management of a child care program shall receive a certificate to operate a child care program if that person participated in such capacity in a child care program which has been denied a certificate, or which had a certificate revoked, on three (3) occasions.

(5)(A) The time restrictions of subdivisions (1) and (2) may be waived by the Child Care Advisory Council in the hearing in which the denial or revocation is sustained, or, if requested by the former certificate holder in writing to the commissioner, in a separate subsequent hearing before the Child Care Advisory Council or, in the discretion of the commissioner, upon review by the commissioner.

(B) The program must show to the council's or the commissioner's satisfaction that the program has corrected the deficiencies which led to the denial or revocation, and that the child care program can demonstrate that it has the present and future ability, and is willing, to maintain compliance with certificate laws or regulations. The decision of the council or the commissioner shall be reduced to an order, which shall be a final order pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3, and may be appealed pursuant to § 4-5-322.

(C) No waiver may be granted for any permanent restriction that has been imposed pursuant to subdivision (3).

(h)(1) In conducting hearings before the Child Care Advisory Council on the appeal of the denial or revocation of a certificate or for review of summary

suspension orders, it is the legislative intent that such hearings be promptly determined consistent with the safety of the children in the care of the child care program appealing the department's certificate action and with the due process rights of the certificate applicants or certificate holders.

(2) If, however, the Administrative Procedures Division of the Office of the Secretary of State certifies by letter to the Recording Secretary of the Child Care Advisory Council that the division's contested case docket prevents the scheduling of a hearing on the appeal of a denial or revocation of a certificate before the Child Care Advisory Council within the initial timeframes set forth in this part, then the department shall have the authority to appoint a hearing officer to conduct the proceedings before the council. The substitute hearing officer shall have all authority as an administrative law judge of the Department of State. The hearing may be continued by order of the council for the purpose of obtaining a substitute hearing officer.

(3) Hearings on summary suspension orders shall be heard by a hearing officer of the department. Such hearing officer shall have authority, as otherwise permitted in this section, to enter orders binding on the department resulting from show cause hearings involving summary suspension orders.

(i) By July 1, 2000, any initial rules to implement the provisions of this section shall be by public necessity rules of the department; provided, however, any permanent rules shall be promulgated pursuant to the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 48.

49-1-108. Annual report.

(a) Beginning October 1, 2000, each child care program shall submit to the commissioner an annual report.

(b) The report shall consist of:

- (1) Identification information;
- (2) Current enrollment figures;
- (3) Self-reporting on mandatory regulations;
- (4) Current certification status; and
- (5) Such additional information as determined by the department.

(c) Any entity not completing the annual report by October 1, shall receive notice of such failure and, if the report is not filed within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing of the notice, the certificate of approval shall be suspended immediately, pending receipt of the report.

SECTION 49.

49-1-1009. Collaboration with Department of Human Services for training; funding and technical assistance.

(a) The Departments of Education and Human Services shall collaborate regarding the following areas relative to child care:

(1) Access to appropriate training opportunities that are provided through the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance;

(2) Representation in committees and work groups that are responsible for planning funding allocations for Child Care Development Block Grant funds;

(3) Recognition of Department of Education programs on the Department of Human Services' resource and referral system;

(4) Eligibility of Department of Education-monitored programs for child care certificate funds;

(5) Dual access to child care provider data in order to maintain the current status of child care service broker information;

(6) The planning and coordination of annual meetings between staff of the Child Care Services Division of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education for the purpose of advancing the quality of child care in Tennessee;

(7) Access to training and technical assistance from the Child Care Resource Center; and

(8) Training that might be developed through any of the child care programs monitored by the Department of Education.

(b) The department shall require departmental employees who conduct on-site inspections of child care programs to periodically participate in the training activities conducted by the Department of Human Services for inspectors of that department's child care programs.

SECTION 50. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-413, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

49-5-413. Investigation of applicants for teaching or child care positions.

(a) In addition to the requirements of § 49-5-406, a local Board of Education or any child care program as defined in § 49-1-1002 shall require any person applying for a position as a teacher and any person applying for any other position requiring proximity to school children or to children in a child care program to:

(1) Agree to the release of all investigative records to the board or child care program for examination for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of criminal violation information as required by § 49-5-406(a)(1)(A); and

(2) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

(b) Any reasonable costs incurred by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in conducting such investigation of an applicant shall be paid by the applicant the first time such applicant applies for a position with a local Board of Education or a child care program. The applicant shall be provided a copy of all criminal history records check documentation provided to the local Board of Education or child care program to which the applicant first applies. In lieu of additional criminal history records checks for subsequent applications, the applicant may submit copies of the applicant's initial criminal history records check documentation and shall not be required to pay any additional costs. Any local Board of Education or child care program may reimburse the applicant for the costs of the investigation if the applicant accepts a position as a teacher or any other position requiring proximity to school children or children in a child care program. Any local Board of Education or child care program may establish a policy authorizing payments for investigations of an applicant who provides school maintenance, clean up, food service and other such functions other than administrative or teaching functions or duties. A local Board of Education or child care program may pay for an investigation of such applicant regardless of whether the applicant accepts an offer for employment with such Board of Education or child care program.

SECTION 51. The Tennessee Code Commission is directed to replace in the Tennessee Code Annotated the language "child welfare agency" or "child welfare agencies" with the language "child care agency" or "child care agencies" wherever such language is found, as the context may require, and where the context does not otherwise render such changes unnecessary or inappropriate.

SECTION 52. Tennessee Code Annotated, § 4-37-108, is amended by deleting subsection (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(2) The loan or grant is to be used to finance the continued operation, improvement, expansion or development of a child care center, group child care home or family child care home; and

SECTION 53. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-1-209, is amended by deleting the symbol and numerals "§ 38-6-114" in subdivision (c)(4) and by substituting instead the symbol and numerals "§ 38-6-109".

SECTION 54. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-108, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) "Placement of a child or children for adoption" means, for purposes of this section and § 36-1-109 and for licensing purposes in Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5, and for § 37-5-507, that a person, corporation, agency, or other entity is employed, contracted, or engaged, in any manner for any remuneration, fee, contribution, or thing of value, of any type by, or on behalf of, any person:

SECTION 55. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-602(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3) "Child care agency" is as defined in §§ 71-3-501 and 37-5-501;

SECTION 56. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-603, is amended by deleting the language "child day care centers" in subsection (a) and by substituting instead the language "child care centers"; and is further amended by deleting in subdivision (b)(1) the language "child abuse agency as defined in § 71-3-501" and by substituting instead the language "child abuse agency as defined in § 37-5-501"; and is further amended by deleting the language "by the department" at the end of the first sentence in subdivision (b)(1)(A) and by substituting instead the language "by the Departments of Children's Services or Human Services".

SECTION 57. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-402, is amended by deleting subdivision (1) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(1) "Agency" means a child care agency, as defined in Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, or in Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5, regardless of whether such agency is licensed or approved, and includes the Department of Children's Services;

SECTION 58. Tennessee Code Annotated, § 37-2-412, is amended by deleting subdivision (e)(1) and (2) in their entireties and by substituting instead the following:

(e)(1) The Department of Children's Services shall enforce the provisions of this section only for its own foster homes or for agencies which it licenses pursuant to Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5, and it shall periodically undertake appropriate activities to encourage and ensure compliance.

(2) Any violations noted by the department as a result of its inspections of child care agencies pursuant to § 37-5-513 shall be processed in the manner prescribed in that section.

SECTION 59. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-414, is amended by deleting the language "day care center or family day care home" in subdivision (b)(4)(A) in its entirety, and by substituting instead the language "child care center, group child care home or family child care home".

SECTION 60. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-106, is amended by deleting subdivision (3)(A) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3)(A) License or approve and supervise child care agencies as defined in §§ 37-1-501 et seq., which are placed within the department's jurisdiction pursuant to law;

SECTION 61. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-109, is amended by deleting subsections (1), (2) and (5) in their entireties and by substituting instead the following:

(1) The Department of Children's Services shall license or approve and supervise child abuse agencies, child caring institutions, child placing agencies, detention centers, family boarding or foster care homes, group care homes, maternity homes and temporary holding resources. Not later than January 1, 1999, the department shall develop and implement standards to ensure that children in foster care placements in public or private agencies are provided quality services that protect the safety and health of the children. Exceptions to

the department's licensing responsibilities concerning the aforementioned categories are contained in § 37-5-503.

(2) The Department of Human Services shall license or approve and supervise child care centers, family child care homes and group child care homes. Exceptions to the Department of Human Services' licensing responsibilities concerning the aforementioned categories are contained in § 71-3-503;

(5) Subject to the exemptions set out in §37-5-503, and pursuant to promulgated rules and regulations, the department will license or approve or supervise any entity which provides residential services to children and is not otherwise subject to licensure, approval, certification or supervision by any other agency as required by state law.

SECTION 62. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1604, is amended by deleting the language "child day care centers" and "day care center" in subsection (1) and by substituting instead, respectively, the language "child care centers" and "child care center".

SECTION 63. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-22-128, is amended by deleting the language "day care" in the catchline and in the text of the section, and by substituting instead the language "child care".

SECTION 64. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-14-303, is amended by deleting subsection (9) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(9) Levy and collect fees for inspections of food service establishments; provided, that no fee shall be charged for reinspections of such establishments; and provided further, that in no event shall an inspection or reinspection fee be levied or collected from a child care center, from a group child care home, or from a family child care home, as defined by § 71-3-501.

SECTION 65. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-14-313, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(4) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(4) Child care center food service establishments shall pay according to the following schedule:

0-50 seats	\$ 50.00
51 or more seats	80.00

The provisions of this section shall not apply to family child care homes, as defined by § 71-3-501.

SECTION 66. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-120-106, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other law to the contrary, with respect to:

- (1) Child care centers, as defined by § 71-3-501;
- (2) Group child care homes, as defined by § 71-3-501; and
- (3) Family child care homes, as defined by § 71-3-501;

if a conflict arises between the State Fire Marshal and any other official having concurrent jurisdiction relative to application or interpretation of the same or substantially identical building construction safety standards or fire prevention standards, then the determination of the State Fire Marshal shall supersede the conflicting application or interpretation by the other official having concurrent jurisdiction. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to abrogate any right of appeal granted under Part 4 of this chapter.

SECTION 67. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-212-105, is amended by deleting the language “day care” in subsection (6) and by substituting instead the language “child care”.

SECTION 68. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-157, is amended by deleting the language “day care” in subsection (f) and by substituting instead the language “child care”.

SECTION 69. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-2-403, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

71-2-403. Criminal history violation information required of persons having access to adults; Review of vulnerable persons registry; Verification; Exclusion from access to adults; Appeals.

(a)(1) Criminal background checks shall be conducted for all new employees, or for volunteers who are counted in the staff/adult participant ratio and those volunteers who have unsupervised access to the adult participants, in adult day care centers, and for all new department licensing staff who provide services to adults in the department’s adult day care licensing program and all new counselors and supervisors in the adult protective services program. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) and in subsection (c), and except where the context or intent would otherwise render the language inapplicable to the persons having access to adults in an adult day care center, the procedures, requirements, and any other statutory provisions involving the requirements for criminal history disclosure forms, the methodology for obtaining and reporting the fingerprint-based criminal history of a person, the exclusions of persons with a criminal history, the appeals processes, the department’s authority to allow by rule of the department for exemptions from a verified criminal background, permissive background check procedures and any other consistent procedures, shall be the same for persons subject to the provisions of this section as those provided in § 71-3-507 for persons having access to children in child care agencies licensed by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5; provided, however, the adult day care center, and not the department, shall be responsible for all of the costs of the fingerprint criminal background checks conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its employees or volunteers subject to this section. With respect to volunteers, this section applies only to those volunteers

who serve as volunteers for more than thirty-six (36) hours in any one (1) calendar year.

(2) The adult day care center may require that the costs of the background check be a part of the application process by a prospective employee or volunteer, or pay the costs and recover the costs of the fingerprint criminal background checks from the prospective employee following employment. The department shall pay all costs required for its employees subject to the required criminal background check.

(b) The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shall make any reports of positive matches pursuant to this section in the same manner as provided for any of the processes authorized by § 71-3-507.

(c) Conviction of an offense, or a lesser included offense, involving the physical, sexual or emotional abuse; neglect, financial exploitation or misuse of funds, or theft from any person, or which constitutes conviction of an offense involving violence against any person, or conviction of an offense involving the manufacture, sale, possession or distribution of any drug, or a no contest plea to such offenses, and any pending warrants, indictments or presentments for such offenses, or the identification of any person on the Department of Health's vulnerable persons registry pursuant to Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 10, shall disqualify such person from employment with, or from having any access whatsoever, to adults in an adult day care center as defined by this part, or with the department.

SECTION 70. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-2-405, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

71-2-405. Licensing procedures; fees; biennial licenses; transfers of licenses.

(a)(1) An application for a license shall be submitted to the department in such manner as the department may require.

(2) An application for a license shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee for the license and shall be received by the department not less than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the existing license. Failure to timely submit a renewal application for a license shall result in expiration of the existing license.

(3) Each application submitted to the department for a new license or for the renewal of a license shall be accompanied by the fee required for the license.

(4) The commissioner may approve applications for renewal of a license as a biennial or triennial licensee if the commissioner determines that the applicant's methods of care and history of compliance clearly demonstrate that a biennial or triennial license is warranted.

(5) The fees for adult day care centers shall be:

(A)(i) Centers caring for less than twenty (20) participants:

Annual Fee.....\$ 125.00

Biennial Fee.....\$ 175.00

Triennial Fee.....\$ 200.00

(ii) Centers caring for twenty (20)-one hundred (100) participants:

Annual Fee.....\$ 200.00

Biennial Fee.....\$ 250.00

Triennial Fee.....\$ 300.00

(iii) Centers caring for more than one hundred (100) participants:

Annual Fee.....\$ 400.00

Biennial Fee.....\$ 450.00

Triennial Fee.....\$ 500.00

(B) The fees shall be earmarked and dedicated to the Department of Human Services for the improvement of the quality of adult services in this state.

(C) If the department issues a temporary license after the application fee is paid, no further fee shall be required until the adult day care center applies again for an annual license or for renewal of the regular annual, biennial or triennial license.

(D) Any adult day care center which is operated by a public, nonprofit agency or local municipality operating under a grant from the department and which pays an administrative fee as part of the monitoring requirements of such grant shall be exempt from the licensing fee.

(b)(1) If the department determines that the applicant for annual license does not meet all of the requirements for such license, but has presented satisfactory evidence that the facility which is proposed for the care of adults has received fire safety, environmental safety and any necessary food establishment approval, that the applicant and the personnel who will care for the adults are capable in substantially all respects to care for the adults and that the applicant has the ability and intent to comply with the licensing law and regulations, the department may issue a temporary license to the applicant.

(2) The purpose of the temporary license is to permit the license applicant to demonstrate to the department that the applicant has complied with all licensing laws and regulations applicable prior to the issuance of an initial annual license.

(3) Within six (6) months of the issuance of the temporary license, the department shall determine if the applicant has complied with all regulations governing the adult day care centers. The department may extend the period of the temporary license for an additional six (6) months if the department determines that the applicant has made substantial progress in meeting the requirements of the law and regulations for an initial annual license.

(4)(A) If the department determines that the applicant for any license complies with all licensing laws and regulations for adult day care centers, the department shall issue an annual, biennial or triennial license. The department may issue a restricted license as provided in §71-2-407 if circumstances warrant. If the applicant has not complied with such laws or regulations or if circumstances do not warrant the issuance of a restricted license, the application shall be denied.

(B) A biennial or triennial license may not be granted as the first license immediately following any temporary license. If a biennial or triennial license is granted, the commissioner may limit the biennial or triennial license to an annual or biennial or triennial license at the next renewal period, or may at any time reduce the biennial or triennial licensure period to a shorter period. Such reduction in the licensing period may be appealed pursuant to the procedures for appeal of license denials or revocations.

(C) The annual, biennial or triennial license shall expire, respectively, twelve (12), twenty-four (24) or thirty-six (36) months from the date of its issuance unless the licensee has made timely reapplication for renewal and the department has not determined the status of the application, in which case the existing license shall continue in effect, unless suspended, until such determination is made and until a timely filed appeal is resolved by entry of a final order regarding the license application pursuant to § 4-5-314.

(c)(1) Each license issued or renewed pursuant to this part shall not be transferable to any other person or entity, and the sale, or transfer of the adult day care facility by any means, from the person or entity which is named as the licensee to any other person or entity shall void the existing license or any pending appeal of the denial or revocation of the existing license, and shall require an application by the transferee for an annual license and the payment of the required licensing fee. The adult day care center, the ownership or control of which has been transferred by the existing licensee, may not continue operation until a temporary or annual license is granted to the transferee. The new licensee in such circumstances may not be the transferor or any person or entity acting on behalf of the transferor.

(2) If, however, the department determines that any person or entity has transferred nominal control of a center to any persons or entities who are determined by the department to be acting on behalf of the purported transferor in order to circumvent a history of violations of the licensing law or regulations or to otherwise attempt to circumvent the licensing law or regulations or any prior licensing actions instituted by the department, the department may deny the

issuance of any license to the applicant. The denial of the license may be appealed as provided in § 71-2-410.

(3)(A) The license of any center shall not be voided nor shall any pending appeal be voided pursuant to this subsection solely for the reason that the center is subject to judicial orders directing the transfer of control or management of an adult day care center or its license to any receiver, trustee, administrator or executor of an estate, or any similarly situated person or entity.

(B) If the current licensee dies, and provided that no licensing violations require the suspension, denial or revocation of the agency's license, the department may grant family members of the licensee, or administrators or executors of the licensee, a temporary license to continue operation for a period of six (6) months. At the end of such period, the department shall determine whether an annual or extended license should be granted to a new licensee as otherwise provided in this section.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the department from taking any regulatory or judicial action as may be required pursuant to the licensing laws and regulations that may be necessary to protect the adults in the care of such center.

SECTION 71. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-2-407, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following new section:

71-2-407. Restricted licenses.

(a) In determining whether to deny, revoke or suspend a license, or in granting any license, the department may choose to deny, revoke or suspend or grant only certain authority of the licensee to operate and may permit the licensee to continue operation, but may restrict or modify the licensee's authority to provide certain services or perform certain functions, including, but not limited to: transportation or food service, enrollment of adult participants at the center, the center's hours of operation, the center's use of certain parts of the center's physical facilities or any other function of the adult day care center which the department determines should be restricted or modified to protect the health, safety or welfare of the adult participants. The actions authorized by this subdivision may be appealed as otherwise provided in this part for any denial or revocation.

(b) At any hearing on a denial, revocation or suspension, the administrative law judge or hearing officer may, as part of the decision regarding the status of the applicant's or licensee's license, direct that the adult day care center be allowed to operate on a probationary or conditional status, or may allow the license to remain in effect with any restrictions or conditions on the center's authority to provide care.

SECTION 72. Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 71-2-408 and 71-2-409, are repealed and subsequent sections of Title 71, Chapter 2, Part 4, shall be renumbered accordingly.

SECTION 73. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-2-411, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c)(1) If, during the licensing period, the department determines that an adult day care center is not in compliance with the laws or regulations governing its operation, and if after reasonable written notice to the center of the violation, the department determines that the violation remains uncorrected, the department may place the adult day care center on probation for a definite period of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days as determined by the department, and the department shall require the posting by the center of the notice of probation. The department shall provide the center a written basis describing the violation of the licensing rules that support the basis for the probationary status.

(2)(A) If placed on probation, the center shall immediately post a copy of the probation notice, together with a list provided by the department of the violations which were the basis for the probation, in a conspicuous place as directed by the department and with the center's license, and the center shall immediately notify in writing the responsible adult day care participant and the responsible relative or caretaker of each of the adults in its care of the center's status, the basis for the probation and of the center's right to an informal review of the probationary status.

(B) If the center requests an informal review within two (2) business days of the imposition of probation, either verbally or in writing to the department's licensing staff which imposed the probation, the department shall informally review the probationary status by a departmental staff person who was not involved in the decision to impose the probation. The center may submit any written or oral statements as argument to the departmental staff person within five (5) business days of the imposition of the probation. Written and oral statements may be received by any available electronic means. The departmental staff person shall render a decision in writing upholding, modifying or lifting the probationary status within ten (10) business days of the imposition of the probation.

(3) If the departmental staff person did not lift the probation under subdivision (B), the center may also appeal such action in writing to the commissioner within five (5) business days of the receipt of the notice of the departmental staff person's decision regarding the center's probationary status as determined in subdivision (B). If timely appealed, the department shall conduct an administrative hearing pursuant to the contested case provisions of §§ 4-5-301 et seq. concerning the department's action within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the appeal and shall render a decision in writing within seven (7) business days following conclusion of the hearing. The hearing officer may uphold, modify or lift the probation.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall be discretionary with the department, and shall not be a prerequisite to any licensing action, to suspend, deny or revoke a license of an adult day care center.

SECTION 74. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-612(a), is amended by adding the language "Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 5," after the language "authorized by" and before the words "the provisions".

SECTION 75. (a) No later than July 1, 2000, the Commissioner of Human Services is authorized to use public necessity rules pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-5-209, in establishing limits for the maximum time a child may be transported by a child care center. Such rules may also provide for limited waivers due to limited access to Child Care Services in specified geographic areas. Such rules shall be consistent with the proposed rules from the most recent standards committee appointed pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5.

(b) No later than July 1, 2000, the Commissioner of Human Services is authorized to use public necessity rules pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-5-209, in establishing requirements for the training of staff of child care agencies and in establishing adult to child ratios for children age zero (0) through thirty-five (35) months for staffing of child care as such requirements and ratios are provided in proposed rules from the most recent standards committee appointed pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, and as specifically provided in the committee's proposed Rule 1240-4-3-.07. In such rules the commissioner shall establish a graduated implementation schedule for appropriate provisions of the rules and their affected groups.

(c) The Commissioner of Human Services is authorized to use public necessity rules pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-5-209, to require that no license for a child care center shall be granted after January 1, 2001, unless the child care director has, at a minimum, received a Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance ("TECTA") certificate for completing thirty (30) clock hours of basic entry level training, or has received comparable training approved by the department, and has four (4) years experience in child care, in absence of proof that the director has met the requirements of Rule 1240-4-3-.07(3)(e) 1. or 2. or that the director was employed as an on-site child care director or was a child care owner on the effective date of this act.

SECTION 76. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-154(b)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(1) A caretaker relative who becomes ineligible for any reason other than a failure to cooperate with child support obligations shall be eligible for eighteen (18) months of transitional child care assistance and such assistance shall be paid, for any months the caretaker relative is employed, on a sliding fee scale based upon the family's income for so long as federal funding for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant program or any related waiver is in effect.

SECTION 77. The Department of Human Services shall be responsible for conducting a survey of all licensed child care centers to determine whether they support the use of mechanical or electronic safety devices or other similar safety devices related to the transport of children. Such survey shall be completed in a timely fashion and a report shall be compiled which shall be submitted to the House Health and Human Resources Committee and Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee no later than January 15, 2001.

SECTION 78. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-223(a), is amended by adding a new item thereto, as follows:

() Child Care Advisory Council, created by Section 39 of this act;

SECTION 79. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section _____. The records of any entity entering into a contract or grant with the state for child care broker services relating to such grant or contract shall be public records open for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 10-7-503. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow a social security number or residential address of any person to be considered a public record.

SECTION 80. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 37, is amended by adding the following as new Part 2:

4-37-201(a)(1). The Department of Human Services is authorized to work with local communities, industry and other entities to develop the preliminary parameters of a program of public/private partnerships to enhance funding of child care. In such efforts, the department shall involve entities such as the Tennessee Child Care Facilities and Programs Corporation that was established pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 37, Part 1, the appropriate local Families First Councils and the Work Force Development Council.

(2) In exploring such partnerships, the department shall examine the feasibility of securing federal and state funding as an incentive for developing matching local funds derived from local governments, employers, charitable institutions or foundations and other sources, so that communities may seek local, flexible partnerships with employers for the creation and enhancement of child care.

(b)(1) Only to the extent of any current funding not otherwise obligated by law, the department may also establish preliminary public/private partnerships through a program based upon the principles in subsection (a). In any preliminary program created pursuant to this subsection, any matching funds shall be used with the input and direction of local communities to meet the needs of working parents and to create, expand or upgrade on-site child care facilities; to contract or partner with child care agencies that provide such types of child care as sick-care, after-hours care for children and any other forms of child care that becomes necessary to meet the needs of children, parents, and employers; and to use such funds as incentives or for studies that may be necessary to aid in the development of any child care for the particular community.

(2) Any funds used pursuant to this subsection shall supplement or extend the use of existing public or private funding and shall not be used to supplant the maintenance of effort being exerted currently by the employer or other contributor.

(3) Any funds utilized pursuant to this subsection shall be for child care provided in a facility licensed, approved or certified by a state child care

licensing, certification or approval entity under titles 37, 49, or 71, or in any other facility or program approved for the care of children by the Department of Human Services.

(c) The department shall report, no later than January 15, 2001, to the House Children and Family Affairs Committee; the Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Health and Human Resources Committee; the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee; and the Select Committee on Children and Youth regarding its activities under this act, including but not limited to any preliminary partnerships initiated, the use of any current funds, and recommendations for legislation to establish an ongoing program to address the needs identified.

(d) The department is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations, which may include public necessity rules, pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 5, to implement the provisions of subsection (b). Such rules may include criteria for grants and use of program funds and shall be limited to any currently available funds not otherwise obligated by law.

SECTION 81. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section, 68-11-201, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Prescribed child care center" means a nonresidential child care, health care/child care center providing physician prescribed services and appropriate developmental services for six (6) or more children who are medically and/or technology dependent and require continuous nursing intervention. Child care for purposes of this section means the provision of supervision, protection, and meeting the basic needs of children, who are not related to the primary caregivers, for three (3) or more hours a day, but less than twenty-four (24) hours a day.

SECTION 82. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-202(a)(1), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care centers," immediately following the language "birthing centers,".

SECTION 83. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-204(a)(1), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center," immediately following the language "birthing center,".

SECTION 84. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-204(c), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care centers," immediately following the language "birthing centers,".

SECTION 85. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-206, is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center," immediately following the language "birthing center," wherever found.

SECTION 86. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-209(a), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care centers," immediately following the language "birthing centers,".

SECTION 87. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-209(c)(1), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center" immediately following the language "birthing center".

SECTION 88. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-210(a)(1), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center," immediately following the language "birthing center,".

SECTION 89. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-210(b)(2)(A), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center," immediately following the language "birthing center,".

SECTION 90. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-213, is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center" immediately following the language "birthing center," wherever found.

SECTION 91. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-213, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection (d):

"(d)(1) The department may assess a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) against any person or entity operating a prescribed child care facility without the license required by this chapter or in violation of any other statute or regulation promulgated hereunder. Each day of operation is a separate offense.

(2) The board is specifically authorized to promulgate regulations for the assessment and procedures to be used in the assessment of civil penalties against a prescribed child care center, including but not limited to, a schedule of the minimum and maximum penalties, factors to be considered in making the assessment, procedures to be used in the assessment, appeals, and finality of assessments.

(3) The board is authorized to conduct contested cases regarding appeals of the penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection."

SECTION 92. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-216(b)(1), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care centers" immediately following the language "birthing centers,".

SECTION 93. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-219(a), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care center" immediately following the language "birthing center,".

SECTION 94. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-222(a), is amended by inserting the language "prescribed child care centers," immediately following the language "birthing centers,".

SECTION 95. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language in a new, appropriately numbered section:

68-11-2____. (a) All prescribed child care centers as defined in § 68-11-201 shall initiate a criminal background check on any person who is employed by or who wishes to volunteer in a capacity which involves providing direct care to a child, prior to or within seven (7) days of employment or provision of services. Any person who applies for employment for in a position or who wishes to volunteer in a capacity which involves providing direct care to a child in such a facility shall consent to:

(1) Provide past work and personal references to be checked by the prescribed child care center; and/or

(2) Agree to the release of any and all information and investigative records to the prescribed child care center or its agent, or to any agency that contracts with the State of Tennessee necessary for the purpose of verifying whether the individual has been convicted of a felony in the State of Tennessee; and/or

(3) Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, other law enforcement agency, or any legally authorized entity; and/or

(4) Release any information required for a criminal background investigation by a professional background screening organization or criminal background check service or registry.

(b) Any costs incurred by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, professional background screening organization, law enforcement agency or other legally authorized entity, in conducting such investigations of such applicants or volunteers may be paid by the prescribed child care center, or any agency that contracts with the State of Tennessee requesting such investigation and information, or the individual who seeks employment or is employed or volunteers. Payments of such costs to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation are to be made in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 38-6-103 and § 38-6-109.

(c) A prescribed child care center which declines to employ or terminates a person based upon information provided to the facility under this act shall be immune from suit by or on behalf of that person for the termination of or the refusal to employ that person.

SECTION 96. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.


SECTION 97. For the purposes of rulemaking this act shall take effect on becoming a law and for all other purposes this act shall take effect July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: June 9, 2000


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 26th day of June 2000


DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR